### Parties to attend Algerian talks conference

ALGIERS (AFP) - More Algerian parties announced Friday that they would attend the government-sponsored "national consensus conference" to be held next week. They included the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development (MAJD), founded by former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah who was assassinated last August, and the National Constitutional Rally, a coalition of a dozen small parties. The conference, to be held Jan. 25 and 26, has a brief to set a new direction for the conflict-torn country, giving it a new joint leadership and plotting out a political transition towards elections in 1997. Reconciliation moves were boosted Thursday with an appeal for an end to "differences" to "blood-letting between Algerians" at a meeting organised by Islamic leaders, who announced the formation of a republican Islamic rally.

Volume 18 Number 5518

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# King, Clinton reaffirm quest is for comprehensive peace

His Majesty, U.S. president discuss peace process, Geneva summit and bilateral ties



His Majesty King Hussein with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House on Friday (AFP)

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON - His Majesty King Hussein Friday held talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton and reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to a negotiated peace settlement with Israel.

Posing for photographers with President Clinton before beginning the White House meeting, the King also reiterated hope that the 26-monthold Arab-Israeli peace negotiations would lead to a comprehensive peace accord.

The King said Arab-Israeli peace talks were "going very, very well," and that "recent developments are all increasingly encouraging as far as coordinating the Palestinian dimension with our Palestinian

"We are doing all we can, and it is all part of the com-plete scene," said the King. who arrived in Washington Thursday along with Her Majesty Queen Noor after undergoing a routine medical check-up at the Mayo Clinic

in Rochester, Minnesota. "Everyone, I believe - the majority of people are for comprehensive peace — and this is the time that we must move rapidly towards the estabishment of a just and comprehensive peace," said the King with

President Clinton on his side. We are working on our agenda and all the others there, and I hope the crowning achievement will be a peace treaty," the King said.

Briefing reporters after the White House meeting, presidential spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said Mr. Clinton believed that "the only solution to the situation in (the Middle East) is a comprehensive peace and that is something that has to be worked out among the parties, that there is progress being made on each of the individual tracks and we're going to continue to support that progress."

Asked whether the U.S. thought that there would be no agreements between Israel and any of the Arab parties involved in the negotiations, be-

### Regent: 1994 could be year of peace House and discussed the Arab-

fore a comprehensive accord is reached, Ms. Myers said: "That is something for the parties to work out among themselves." Asked what Mr. Clinton ex-

pected from the next round of bilateral talks that begin in Washington on Monday and whether he was planning to talk to any of the parties, she said: "No. I think that it's something that the parties have to work out for themselves. I think we will continue to support the process and urge the process forward. But when it comes to sitting down, I think the parties have to do that themselves. I think the president is encouraged by the fact that the process is moving forward. He's had good conversations, as you know, with a number of leaders and will continue to do what he can to promote the process."

King Hussein and President Clinton met for 45 minutes, including a 20-minute one-toone meeting, at the White

Israeli peace process as well as other issues.

The King and Mr. Clinton discussed the peace process in the Middle East, the Jordan-Israel track, as well as other bilateral issues. Among other things, the president and the King reaffirmed their commitment to a comprehensive peace," Ms. Myers said. The Jordan News Agency,

Petra, said King Hussein and President Clinton reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and the outcome of the American-Syrian summit held last Sunday in Geneva.

Discussion at the meeting also focused on other issues, including bilateral relations in political and economic fields, it

The King had tests on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Mayo Clinic, where surgeons removed a kidney in August 1992 after finding cancerous

"His Majesty underwent the scheduled tests and results showed no signs or traces of the disease that warranted surgery to remove it a year and

a half ago," Petra said. "He also underwent other tests and the results, thank God, were good and satisfactory," Petra said. It was his fourth checkup there since the operation.

King Hussein, who likes sports, has complained of feeling tired since the surgery although it does not appear to have affected his work sche-

His meeting with Mr. Clinton was the second since June, to discuss Middle East peace and bilateral ties, which have improved steadily since differences over 1990 crisis.

King Hussein will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher here next week. King Hussein and Queen Noor were received at Dulles

(Continued on page 3)

## Yemeni leaders affirm accord

ADEN (Agencies) — Yemen's president and vice-president have reached agreement on an from splitting the country, official media reported.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh have agreed to meet and sign the accord whenever and wherever a mediation committee, says, committee official Ahmad Ja-

ber Afif was quoted as saying. The have "blessed the document and agreed to it" and given mediators "full authority to decide the date and venue of

the meeting," Mr. Afif said. Mr. Saleh, speaking at a mass meeting in Sanaa, was quoted by Yemen Television as calling on Mr. Beedh to return to the capital and resome his official duties.

Mr. Saleh and Beedh have not met since August, when the latter retired to his Yemen Socialist Party's (YSP) stronghold in Aden and refused to take the oath as vice-president, sparking a crisis which has thrown Yemen's government into turmoil. 8. Stailer may

The YSP's politburo at an emergency meeting in Aden late on Thursday called for the speedy signing of the document and for "the necessary measures and steps between all members and forces to be taken to accomplish (the contents of) this document." Ye-

broken hei piik men Television reported. king pomoga The southern Yemeni YSP called on its members and what it called "other forces" to support the document "to prethe child's serve the nation and its unity."

The "pledge and agreement" document was signed in Aden on Tuesday by reprea divorce and child Ms as sentatives of Yemen's various

political parties. Koons was m I Ms. Stallersh It provides for removal of military tensions between the country's north and south formerly two separate states which merged to form one country in 1990 — as well as

political and economic re-

Mr. Afif said the committee ried dead in the will meet on Thursday to draft the programme of the signing relainer when ceremony and present it to the two leaders. He did not set a deadline for the committee's

ounced adi e person ident Regent congratulates Yemen as in possession

in a hotely town of july en. 51. amin't In Amman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, congratulated the Yemeni leaders on concluding Sunday his F

(Continued on page 5)

## Malhas laments deficiencies of laws to protect consumers in food, drugs

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Friday said that there was a deficiency in laws governing the sales of food and drugs, pointing to the need of legislations that would protect consumers.

He also charged that some drug and food importers were resisting new regulations that the Ministry of Health has introduced to ensure that food and drugs sold in the Kingdom meet specifications and standards.

But Dr. Malhas said that a weekly newspaper "blew out of proportion" remarks he made about the lack of laws regulating the entry of food and medicine into the market and about a group of merchants who violate the few existing ones.

In a lengthy interview published Thursday, Shihan Arabic weekly quoted the minister as saying that a good quantity of food and medicine that finds its way into the market is "the garbage of the industrialised world... and is unfit for (human consumption)." Dr. Malhas told the Jordan Times Friday that the weekly "sensationalised" his

Dr. Malhas said that the gist of what he had told the weekly is that the country does not have sufficient laws that govern the distribution of food and medicine in the Kingdom. He said that there was a need to introduce new laws that would protect the consumer.

When he attempted to address the deficiency in legislation by issuing regulations that would require food and medicine to meet specific standards, many interest groups resisted him, he said.

"There was no law for the inspection of medicine, there was no law to inspect food (and there was) some corruption. So we started issuing regulations based on the general health law to estab-lish" agencies that can ensure the safety of food and drugs,

he told the Jordan Times. But some people found it hard to "break the old habits" of violating the law and abide with the new regulations and started using pressure to change them.

The ministry destroyed some food shipments that did not meet the required standards, said Dr. Malhas. Among these shipments were meat imports that were transported under high temperature, thus rendering the meat void of nutritious value. Some meat shipments developed cancerous elements.

Shihan quoted the minister as saying that the high temperature of over 35 degrees centigrade in which meat was transported or stored rendered it "unfit for human consumption."

Dr. Malhas told the Jordan Times that some food merchants reacted to the new regulations he introduced by warning that they would not import food during the month of Ramadhan. Ramadhan falis early Febru-

The weekly tabloid quoted Dr. Malhas as saying that the food and drug "mafia" have been attacking him in food exporting countries where he is being "accused of ruining their business."

"In my tour of France, Holland and Denmark recently, I have made it clear to



### Abdul Rahim Malhas

food exporters that Jordanians can only consume food similar in quality to food consumed by Europeans and that the Kingdom is applying strict rules to ensure that this would happen," the paper quoted Dr. Malhas as saying.

Shihan quoted Dr. Malhas as saying that these merchants are "sharks (who) have money. (who) buy souls, buy newspapers, buy everything."

The paper quoted him as saying that he has been under pressure from European countries, which export food and medicine to Jordan, to ease the new regulations he has introduced. It quoted him as saying that the British

(Continued on page 5)

## Basel, Syrian President's eldest son, dies in accident King,

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Basel Assad, the 31-year-old son of President Hafez Al Assad and his presumed successor, died Friday in a car

Sources close to the Assad family said Basel's cousin. Hafez Makhlouf, 19, was also hospitalised. State-run media gave no

further details of the crash. But the sources, who spoke anonymously, said Basel's car crashed in foggy conditions as he drove to the airport for a flight to Germany. He is usually trailed by bodyguards in a

station wagon. Basel's death is not expected to alter Syria's peace negotiating strategy. But it could have

serious repercussions at home. An army major and head of the presidential security force, Basel was expected to inherit his father's office or at least become a front-man for his lieutenants when the 63-yearold president passed from the scene. The constitution sets a minimum age of 40 for the

presidency. Thousands of Syrians took to the streets after the accident, some weeping as they converged on Assad University hospital, where Basel's body

Look at the people around and you can realise how popular Basel was," said Corporal Kaser Asfour, 27, of the city of Hama. "His absence is a loss



Basel Assad (1962-94)

"What a loss ... what a tragedy," said Rima Hassan, a 25-year-old nurse. "Basel did not deserve such an end, but it's God's will."

Verses from the Koran boomed from mosque loudspeakers as church bells tolled throughout the capital in mourning. Damascus Radio cancelled scheduled programmes and aired religious read-

The funeral was to be held Saturday in Kordaha, Mr. Assad's hometown in the northwest, following noon

Lebanon's National News Agency said Prime Minister Elias Hrawi burst into tears when he telephoned the elder Assad and heard him crying. Earlier a statement from the

(Continued on page 5)

Regent condole Assad HIS MAJESTY King Hussein

Friday sent a message of condolences to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad over the death of his son, Basel.

"Words would not suffice to express my feelings to pain and grief when I received the shocking news of the death of my dear brother's son Basel in the morning today," the King said in the message.

"I hope you would accept the warmest feelings of consolation and condolences from your brother and his whole family, imploring God to help you and your dear family... to accept his will and destiny.

"If the distance prevents me from being beside you in person, I am with you in heart and mind," said the King, who was in Washington on Friday.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday made a telephone call with President Assad to condole him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on the death of his son.

## Peres to consider new ideas in talks with Arafat in Oslo

OSLO (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday he would consider new proposals to break the deadlock on Palestinian autonomy when he meets Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Oslo.

"We are ready to study with the PLO new proposals to resolve the differences, provided they do not go against Israel's security requirements," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio before leaving for the Norwegian capital Friday.

Mr. Peres, Mr. Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher are due to attend the funeral on Saturday of Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, who helped broker the Israel-PLO autonomy deal signed last September.

The Israeli foreign minister will also hold talks with Mr. Christopher after the funeral. Mr. Peres told the Israeli

news agency Itim he would stop over in London on Friday. The latest round of Israel-PLO talks ended in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba without agreement on control of border crossings with Jordan and Egypt and the size of the

future autonomous Jericho

area in the West Bank. Israel Radio said Mr. Peres and Mr. Christopher would discuss the results of Sunday's Geneva summit meeting between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton and the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks due to

resume in Washington Mon-The radio said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was still insisting that all visitors to

the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank should undergo Israeli security checks when the areas come under Palestinian self-rule.

Mr. Rabin said he only trusted the Israeli security services, according to the radio. On Thursday, Mr. Rabin charged that the PLO was to blame for the deadlock because it was demanding symbols of Palestinian statehood such as flags and control of the crossings. Palestinian spokesman Has-

san Asfour told journalists in Taba both sides had drafted a joint document covering all the points of disagreement over the crossing points, and the talks would reconvene in Taba on Monday.

Self-rule was due to be launched on December 13, but the handover was stalled over control of the crossings and the size of the autonomous Jericho

Mr. Peres landed at Oslo airport amid strict security. Mr. Arafat was due to arrive

in Oslo later on Friday. Mr. Peres said initial talks between delegations might

(Continued on page 3) -----

### **Brown: Arab League to** consider Israel boycott CAIRO (AP) - The Arab

League will consider lifting a boycott of companies dealing with Israel, which would boost American investment in the Middle East, U.S. commerce Secretary Ron Brown said Fri-

On a regional tour, Mr. Brown has pressed for an end to the secondary boycott, as prescribed under the Arab League's commercial boycotted the Jewish state. In fact, several Arab countries already ignore the blacklist.

Esmat Abdul Meguid. secretary general of the 22-member, Cairo-based Arab League, promised Mr. Brown to consider the question at a league meeting in March, the

U.S. cabinet member said. Mr. Brown said with Mr. Abdul Meguid's commitment, he expects a final league decision at that meeting on whether to continue the socalled secondary and tertiary

"I was very optimistic about his response." Mr. Brown said. This is a welcome development for U.S. companies seeking to do business in the region and would have a positive impact on the peace process and

stability. Shortly after Mr. Brown met Dr. Abdul Meguid, the Arab League secretary-general left for Damascus, where the boycott administrative apparatus is headquartered. Dr. Abdul Meguid told reporters he would discuss with boycott officials his meeting with Mr.

During his tour to Arab countries and Israel, Mr. Brown also has urged on overall end of the boycott, which he says is crumbling anyway as Arabs are drawn in to the peace process with Israel. But as a representative of the U.S. government he can

the boycott affecting American interests be lifted, he said. During a three-day stay in Cairo, Mr. Brown met with President Hosni Mubarak and Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO) Chairman Yasser

demand only that elements of

Arafat. He said he discussed with Mr. Arafat the role American companies will have in the reconstruction of Gaza and Jericho after Israel's withdrawal from those areas. The boycott question was not ma-

He urged speed in the Middle East peace negotiations so as to start activating Palestinian and regional economies. "We do need some kind of

mechanism recognised by

jor in their talks, Mr. Brown

Rabin's referendum plan is 'whim' — Aloni TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The

plan to hold a referendum before a withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights was a "whim" of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni said Friday. "It is a whim of Rabin, who

did not consult any ministers before launching his initiative," Ms. Aloni, leader of the left-wing Meretz Party, told Israel radio from Washington. On Monday Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur told parliament that Mr. Rabin, whose Labour Party is

dum if eventual agreements with Syria involved important "territorial concessions." Israel seized the strategic Golan Heights from Syria in 1967 and "annexed" them in

in coalition with Meretz, had

decided to organise a referen-

Ms. Aloni said a referendum would be "a major obstacle to the smooth running of the government, which runs the risk of facing calls for a referendum on all sorts of issues."

The referendum announcement provoked a row in the Israeli cabinet on Tuesday. with several members saying it could jeopardise the peace process. Mr. Rabin later said no decision had been taken on everyone." Mr. Brown said. the issue.

It would be the first referendum in Israel's history. Ms. Aloni also said she was "disappointed" by Mr. Rabin's

response to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's comments on the Middle East peace process at the Geneva summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton on Sunday. Mr. Assad "stressed that

Yitzhak Rabin did not react as a leader who wants to lead his people towards peace. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa charged that an Israeli referendum on whether to withdraw from the Golan would be in violation of

peace with Israel was a

strategic, not tactical, option,

Ms. Aloni said. "I regret that

international law. Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said: "Negotiations with Syria could start off right now with the knowledge that a referendum would be necessary before signing this agreement. So the idea of a referendum should by no means disrupt the process.

not likely to placate Damascus. An Israeli government official who spoke on condition of anonymity said if Israel's public at the eleventh hour voted against land for peace it would mean new elections - seriously disrupting the peace process.

The Israeli reassurance was

## Lebanon wants clear Turkish, Israeli pullout pledge

BEIRUT (AP) — Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said Friday his country wanted a clearcut pledge by Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon, to break the deadlock in Israeli-Lebanese peace talks.

If an unequivocal pledge of withdrawal to the internationally recognised border is made by Israel, Lebanon will he prepared to discuss all related issues on the negotiating table," Mr. Bouez said.

"So far there has been no such commitment, there is only an American understanding of our position...but no guarantee, or a mechanism." Mr. Bouez added.

His remarks were made in an interview with the Egyptian Sawt Al Arab radio station. Recorded excerpts were released by the Foreign Ministry shortly before Lebanon's chief negotiator Suheil Shammas left for Washington via Paris.

Mr. Bouez said Mr. Shammas was leaving earlier than other chief negotiators in order to have separate talks with U.S. officials on the issue of Israel's withdrawal from the enclave it occupies in South Lebanon.

Mr. Shammas told reporters before boarding the plane that he will attend meetings with other chief delegates involved in the peace process in

Washington Monday. The talks are expected to set a date for a 12th round of full-fledged Arab-Israeli peace talks in the process begun in Madrid two years ago under the sponsorship of the United States and Russia.

Mr. Shammas said the sum mit talks of U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Geneva over the weekend had given a "positive boost for prospects of progress in the peace talks." But he cautioned: "We have to wait for Monday's meeting

to see if and how these positive elements will materialise." Mr. Assad gave Mr. Clinton during their Geneva summit a commitment that Syria was

ready for normal, peaceful re-

lations with Israel. It was the first time that Mr. Assad openly spoke of normal relations with Israel within the context of a comprehensive Middle East peace in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from

Arab territories. Syria demands the return of relations.



Faris Bonez the Golan Heights on its southern border.

Israel also occupies 1,100 square kilometres of South

Mr. Rabin's government in-sists that the Lebanese army should prevent attacks on the enclave by guerrillas before discussing the withdrawal

The Lebanese government maintains it will stop guerrilla warfare against Israel's selfstyled "security zone" only after a complete Israeli withdrawal, saying that fighting

occupation is a national right. President Assad and his Lebanese counterpart Elias Hrawi met Wednesday to discuss the outcome of the sum-

After a six-hour meeting, a Syrian presidential spokesman, Jubran Korieh, said Mr. Assad and Mr. Hrawi pledged to continue cooperation and consultation in the peace process.

Mr. Korieh said they stressed that "the peace process should advance on all tracks. including the Lebanese" during the talks, which centered on prospects which the Sunday Geneva summit has brought for a comprehensive peace

He said the Lebanese side had expressed high "appreciation" of Mr. Assad's efforts at the summit and for his call for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, calling for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South

Mr. Korieh added the two sides had expressed satisfaction over current development of their two countries' bilateral

## Soviet emigres may hold card in Golan referendum

TEL AVIV (AP) — Immigrant leaders from the former Soviet Union said Thursday they would vote against a landfor-peace deal with Syria in a move that could affect a national referendum.

"We were educated in Russia never to give up land," said Yosef Mendelevich, who spent II years in Soviet prisons before coming to Israel in 1981. Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin said this week that if peace with Syria would mean ceding a significant part of the Golan Heights he would put the issue before the people. Pollster Mina Tsemach said

that in the 1992 election the 360,000 immigrants from the CIS were the deciding vote in Mr. Rabin's victory over the right-wing Likud party.

However, their vote was mostly due to disillusionment with Likud's attempts at settling the wave of immigrants that at the time suffered from almost 40 per cent unemploy-

Ms. Tsemach said that the community, now eight per cent of the population, could easily back right-wing views in any referendum.

"The Russians are hawkish. much more than the average population." she said.

Svria demands that in return for peace Israel withdraw completely from the strategic Golan Heights.

Israel has said it is ready for a partial withdrawal and that negotiation over territory would begin only after Damas-

cus outlines its idea of peace. Fifty-two per cent of 1,200 Israelis polled in December said they were in favour of at least some territorial concessions on the Golan Heights.

But the 400 immigrants who met in occupied Jerusalem Thursday, said they would campaign in the Russian immigrant community to urge voting against any eventual referendum on land-for-peace.

"The natural continuation of the Zionist struggle is the struggle for the land of Israel." said Yuli Edelstein, a former prisoner and an activist in the Soviet Jewish Zionist Forum.

## **British** and Germans differ on Bosnia

ANKARA (R) — Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said Thursday Turkey still held different views to Britain and Germany on how to achieve peace in Bosnia.

"Our choice of the tools to end fighting in Bosnia differ although we all share sorrow over the tragedy and the desire to see peace." he told a joint news conference after talks with British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd and Germany's Klaus Kinkel.

Mr. Cetin hoped French and British troops would not he withdrawn from U.N. forces in Bosnia. If they were, Turkey was ready to send troops if asked by the United Nations or

Mr. Hurd, who flew to split later Thursday and to Sarajevo Friday, gave no clue about Britain's intentions regarding its troops in Bosnia.

He said only that he and his colleagues had agreed on the need for a durable and negotiated settlement. "given, in my view, that military success for any one of the three fighting communities is out of the ques-

Turkey has long urged international military intervention to break the Serbian siege of Sarajevo, but its NATO partners and the United Nations have not acted on Ankara's

The ministers voiced satisfaction with their informal

Mr. Hurd and Mr. Kinkel stressed Turkey's importance in the region, its growing role in international affairs and the value of its political, economic and security ties with the rest of Europe. They promised to try to

"solve the problem" of Greece's veto on financial aid from the European Union to Turkey, which is due to complete a customs union in 1995. They did not elaborate:

Greece has blocked successive financial protocols to Turkey, citing the Turkish military occupation of northern Cyp-

Mr. Hurd said he was encouraged by Ankara's reception of a U.N. package of confidence-building measures aimed at paving the way for a settlement of the Cyprus dis-

"I believe there is an opportunity in the next few weeks... which if neglected will prodeue a difficult, deteriorating and in the end a dangerous situation," he said.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said Thursday his government was ready to resume suspended talks on the measures.

Mr. Hurd and Mr. Kinkel urged Turkey to improve its human rights record as part of its moves towards Europe.

Diplomats said earlier he had raised the human rights issue with Mr. Cetin, asking about reports of torture, press restrictions and Turkey's treatment of Kurds in the southeast, where a Kurdish revolt has cost more than 10,600 lives since 1984.

The ministers also discussed the Azeri-Armenian conflict. Central Asia. Iraq and Russia. diplomats said.

Mr. Cetin said Russian efforts for democracy and reform deserved support, but this should not be at the expense of the newly-won sovereignty of any of the former Soviet republics.

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DEFIANCE: A handicapped man (left) takes cover from Israeli bullets while two Palestinian boys throw stones at Israeli soldiers during a confrontation in the occupied Gaza Strip on Friday

## Clark to resume Cyprus talks

Joe Clark

man said.

two communities, the spokes-

Two teams of U.N. experts

were recently sent to the island

to examine the economic im-

pact of turning Varosha into a

tourist area and reopening the

international airport in Nico-

The U.N. chief wrote the

community leaders Dec. 17 on

his intention to have Mr. Clark

return to the region for further

Denktash said Thursday his

government had agreed to re-

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf

talks. Mr. Fawzi added.

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) - Joe Clark, the U.N. secretary-general's representative for Cyprus is to visit Nicosia, Athens and Ankara from Jan. 22-29 for further talks on "confidence-building measures" between the Turkish and Greek communities in Cyprus, a U.N. spokesman

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, "counts on the full cooperation of all concerned to make this possible." said his spokesman Ahmad Fawzi.

The confidence-building measures were proposed by the United Nations following eight months of negotiations between community leaders in Cyprus on the rehabilitation of the area of Varosha and the Nicosia international airport. Dr. Ghali believes it is now

possible for both sides to 'accept (the measures) in principle... on the understanding that its provisions will be fully implemented." Mr. Fawzi

In anticipation of Mr. Clark's upcoming visit to the region. Deputy Special Representative Gustave Feissel resumed discussions earlier this month with the leaders of the

designed to pave the way for a solution of the long-running Cyprus dispute.

There are no preconditions, there are principles." Mr. Denktash said. "We are going up the talks without giving of those principles, without making any concessions.

The government had not accepted the confidencebuilding measures, but was willing to discuss them, he

what is being given to the Turkish Cypriot people. whether they will be beneficial or not," he said. "We don't lose anything by discussing.

No date has been set for a resumption of U.N.-sponsored talks, which stalled in New York in June over Turkish Cypriot objections to the

## sume talks on U.N.-proposed confidence-building measures

We can start discussions, we are ready for talks." Mr. Denktash told reporters after presiding over a cabinet meeting in the breakaway northern republic, recognised only by

He said the government was sending a written response to

"At least we will find out

## Syria urged to hand over Brunner

VIENNA (R) - Dead or alive. Alois Brunner is the worst Nazi war criminal still unaccounted for veterun Nazihunter Simon Wiesenthal told Reuters on Thursday.

He wants to know the truth about fugitive Brunner and he believes Syria has the answer. Mr. Wiesenthal said he is

urging Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to ruise the issue next week in Washington when Israel and Syria meet with U.S. mediators to discuss Middle East peace.

Mr. Wiesenthal, who helped compile evidence against Third Reich leaders Adolf Eichmann, Josef Mengele and Klaus Barbie, says the former top Nazi, now 82, has lived in Syria since 1954 under the name George Fischer.

In 1954, he was tried in absentia and sentenced to death by a French court. But despite repeated demands for his extradition by Germany. France and Austria, Damuseus always maintained it knew nothing of him.

Former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim — himself accused of hiding knowledge of Nazi crimes - sought in vain Mr. Brunner's extradition during a visit to Syria in 1991. Now that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad is prepared to join the Middle East peace process, however, Mr. Wiesenthat hopes that at long last Mr. Brunner might be extradited to

answer charges that he sent

Semir Al Lawzi ...... 99961

tens of thousands to die in extermination camps during World War II. Mr. Brunner was deputy to

Mr. Eichmann, the man charged by Hitler with the "final solution of the Jewish problem" - the extermination of all European Jews in death camps. All three men were Austrian-born.

"He is the last of Eichmann's staff. All the rest are dead," Mr. Wiesenthal said.

"Brunner.... took part in Nazi crimes in Austria, France. Greece and Slovakia and is responsible for the deaths of some [30,000 people," he added, saving gypsies, Slavs, and above all Jews were his victims.

Eichmann was captured in Argentina and extradited to Israel in the 1960s, where he was convicted of mass murder and hanged. Barbie was extradited from Bolivia, tried in France in 1987 and convicted of crimes against humanity. He died in 1991.

Josef Mengele, the "Angel of death" at the Auschwitz concentration camp, was never caught and died in Paraguay.

Mr. Wiesenthal said he did not believe a report in a Parishased Arab newspaper last year that Mr. Brunner had died. If that was the case, Syria should be prepared to divulge the time and circumstances of his death, he said.

In the mid-1980s, the German magazine Bunte pub-

Invitor Electrical Authority . 815615

lished photographs of Mr. Brunner in Syria displaying a maimed hand he said had been blown up by a letter bomb sent by Israeli agents.

The picture showed an elderly man missing four fingers of his left hand. The package was postmarked in Au-"Brunner has been visited in

Syria not only by journalists but also by neo-Nazis." Mr. Wiesenthal said. He named Gerd Honsik, an Austrian neo-Nazi who fled to Spain, as one of the fugitive's visitors. Mr. Honsik is the author of a

ler," which contains an interview with Mr. Brunner in which he denies the holocaust ever took place. Talking to Bunte years earlier. Mr Brunner is reported

book called "Acquittal for Hit-

to have said he was sorry he was unable to complete his In December 1991, French

Nazi-hunter Beate Karlsfeld. who helped bring former Ges-tapo chief Klaus Barbie to justice, was arrested in Damascus while protesting against Syria's refusal to hand Brunner over, In his book "Justice, not Revenge," Mr. Wiesenthal-writes: "If Adolf Eichmann drew up the grand plan for "judenvernichtung" (extermination of the Jews), it was Alois Brunner who carried it

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### German troops kill Somali intruder

BONN (R) - German soldiers fired on Somalis breaking into a fuel depot in Belet Huen in Somalia early on Friday, killing one of the intruders, the German defence ministry said. The ministry said in a statement that all humanitarian aid provided by Germany as part of a U.N. effort in Somalia had been cancelled pending an investigation into the incident. The statement said guards with night-vision binoculars fired warning shots after at least two people sneaked into the German camp at Belet Huen in Central Somalia, One of the intruders later set off an alarm in the fuel depot and the guards aimed their fire in that direction, killing one of the Somalis. It was believed to be the first incident of its kind involving German troops in Somalia.

### Soviet emigres find jobs in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) - The majority of some half a million Jewish immigrants who moved to Israel from the former Soviet Union since September 1989 are working and own a car, according to a poll published here. Eighty per cent of the new immigrants have found jobs, showed the opinion poll, conducted in December by the Tazpit institute on a sample of 800 families in 37 different areas. According to the results, carried by the independent daily Yediot Aharonot, 24 per cent have permanent jobs in their field. 22 per cent work temporarily in their domain. 22 per cent have fixed jobs outside their specialisation and 32 per cent are on provisional, non-specialised contracts. The poll also showed that 60 per cent of the former Soviet families, each made up of about four members, owned their own cars and 42 per cent bought

### Explosion at pro-Kurdish office injures one

ANKARA (AP) - One person was injured Thursday when a bomb exploded at an Ankara office of the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party, the Anatolia news agency said. No other details were immediately available. The agency said no group had claimed responsibility for the attack. Democracy Party, which has 17 seats in Turkey's 450-member parliament, is widely believed to have links to the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party. The Kurdish group is waging a guerrilla fight for a separate Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey.

### Morocco to free Briton, MP says

LONDON (R) - A Briton imprisoned in Morocco nearly two years ago for alleged drug smuggling was due to fly home on Friday after being granted a royal pardon. Driver John Jones. 52, was imprisoned after being sent to Morocco to collect a truck which was found to contain a large quantity of hashish. Conservative parliamentarian Ann Widdicombe has been campaigning for Mr. Jones's release since shortly after his imprisonment in March 1992 and visited Morocco last October over his case. "Mr. Jones's case demonstrates clearly that everybody should be careful what they bring out of a foreign country." she said.

### Bahrain, Britain sign memo on defence

MANAMA (R) - Bahrain's defence minister has signed a memorandum of understanding with Britain on defence during a visit to London, and plans a similar trip to the United States. the Gulf News Agency reported. The Bahrain-based agency did not give details of the memorandum, signed by Major-General Sheikh Khalifa Ben Ahmad Al Khalifa and British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on Tuesday, Mr. Rifkind visited Bahrain two weeks ago on a tour including Oman, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Britain has close military ties with Gulf Arab states and is involved in billion-dollar defence equipment deals in the region. The United States has defence agreements with a number of Gulf states, including Bahrain, and its regional naval headquarters is based there.

PARIS (R) - Prime Minister Edouard Balladur has indicated France may be explaining to the Swiss government its surprise decision to release two Iranians wanted in Switzerland for murder. "France has noted the Swiss government's request for an explanation," he said in an interview published Friday by the newspaper Dernieres Nouvelles d'Alsace. "Contacts with Switzerland are continuing through the relevant diplomatic channels." he said. Switzerland protested over the release last month of Moshen Sharif-Esfanhi and Ahmad Teheri, sent home despite Berne's request for their extradition over the 1990 murder in Geneva of Iranian dissident Kazem Rajavi. The United States has also requested an explanation. Mr. Balladur has refused to explain his decision publicly. He repeated in the interview it had been taken for reasons of national interest.

### Somaliland in search on recognition

DJIBOUTI (AFP) - The head of Somalia's breakaway Somaliland republic has said he has asked five nearby countries to back his territory's bid for U.N. recognition, accusing the U.N. secretary general of ignoring its claims. Mohammad Egal, whose relatively peaceful secessionist republic broke away from Somalia in 1991, was in Djibouti after trips to the capitals of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to urge leaders of these countries to take joint diplomatic steps to help Somaliland seek recognition by the United Nations. Mr. Egal charged on Djibouti Television Thursday that U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali had ignored the problems and claims of Somaliland, which lies in northwest Somalia. which he said were as "serious as the case of General (Mohammad Farah) Aideed in Mogadishu." He said the localpeople no longer wanted "to confide their destinies to a central power in Mogadishu," adding that Somaliland wanted to become a democratic state and organise elections within two years. Linking recognition of Somaliland to the formation of a government in Mogadishu "is not realistic" since the war in Somalia could prevent the formation of a government for

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## **JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 823624, 654932
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### WEATHER

The Evangelical Local Church in Am-

man Tel. 811295

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

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Dr. Abbas Al Hukim SK5446	Price Complaints
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### **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depair-ment at the Oveen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it ould always be verified.

# Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

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# BBC chairman arrives on visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the British Broadcastine Corporation (BBC) Marmaduke Hussey arrived in Amman Friday on a several-day visit to Jordan. Sir Marmaduke is scheduled to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Director General of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation Rahdi Alkhas and other senior officials. Sir Marmaduke and Mr. Alkhas will discuss means of enhancing cooperation between the Jordan Radio and

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Television Corporation and the BBC.

Born in 1923, Sir Marmaduke was educated at Rugby School

and Trinty College. During the World War II he served in Italy with the Grena-

In 1949 he joined Associated Newspapers, and became a director in 1964. From 1967 to 1970 he was managing director of Harmsworth Publications and in 1971 he joined the executive board of the Thornson Organisation.

Sir Marmaduke was chief executive and managing director of Times Newspapers Limited from 1971 to 1980, and a director from 1982 to 1986. He became a director of Colonial Mutual Life Group PLC in 1982 and was a director of William Collins PLC from 1985 to 1989. From 1985 he was

He is a member of the board of the British Council. Mr. Marmaduke became chairman of the BBC in 1986.

joint chairman of Great West-

ern Radio.

## JEA to get JD 20m in loans to install 3 turbines at Risheh

AMMAN (Petra) - In efforts to increase the country's electric power generation by utilising natural gas from the Risheh fields near the Iraqi border, the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) signed four agreements with local firms to secure JD21 million in loans to finance the installation of three gas turbine units.

JEA officials said that the four agreements are designed to help meet the growing demand for electric power. According to the first agreement signed with the Jordan Islamic Bank, the bank would loan JEA JD9 million for the purchase of equipment necessary for the project.

The second agreement is for a JD8 million loan from an Arab Bank Ltd.-led consortium of banks payable over eight years for the purchase and installation of the three turbines and spare parts. The consortium includes the Social Security Corporation, the Housing Bank. Citibank. Grindlavs Bank, the Cairo

Amman Bank and Arab Bank

The first two loan agreements are backed by a government guarantee.

The third agreement, signed with the Middle East Bank involves a JD3 million loan, and the fourth agreement is for a JD1 million loan signed with the Cairo Amman Bank.

The agreements were signed Thursday by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour.

# American rabbis visit Kingdom on peace process 'support' mission

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - An unprecedented American rabbinical delegation left Jordan Friday after visiting tourist sites and exchanging views with Jordanians in a mission billed as an expression of support for the Arab-Israeli peace

The tour group of 80 rabbis, including eight women, representing 1.5 million American Jews affiliated with 850 synagogues, was described by its spokespersons as totally different in orientation and ideology from their hardline counterparts in

Those who might have taken their cue from the images that appear on Israel Television and expected to see a group of long-bearded men wearing religious garb, armed with prayer books and humming hymns under their breath were in for a surprise. Most of the group's members looked more like business executives than religious men.

The visit was not without its controversies either. Sheikh Mohammad Abdul

By Ian Atallah

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian

Women's Union (JWU) is

planning a campaign to eli-

minate what its members see

as inequality in the treatment

of female pensioners com-

pared with their male coun-

terparts, JWU President

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh told the

Specifically, Dr. Abu Gha-

zaleh referred to the present

Civil Service Retirement Law

which stipulates that when a

setized female civil servant

dies, her pension is im-

mediately cut off and no

family members or other re-

latives benefit from it after-

wards, which is not the case

with retired male civil ser-

"The retirement law and

retirement pension systems in

Jordan are centred on the

principle that the man is the

sole supporter of the family.

as are social customs and

traditions," Huda Fakhoury.

a dentist and a noted

women's rights activist, told

Still Dr. Abu Ghazaleh

said, "times are changing.

and we are working and

the Jordan Times.

Jordan Times.

Rahman Khalifeh, spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, condemned the visit saying "this soil has not been stepped on by a Jew since the time of Caliph Omar" in the eighth century.

"Our past experience has proved that Jews in the West plotted against Palestine." said Sheikh Khalifeh, who also carries the title of the deputy secretary-general of the broader Muslim Brotherhood movement in the Arab World. The visit of the U.S. rabbinical team, he said. means a "plot against Jor-

"This visit is not acceptable to us at all," he said in a statement.

officials said the group was treated as a regular tour team with the only exception that extra security was provided to the delegation.

The group said its very visit to Jordan symbolised a yearning for coexistence and

"We believe our very presence here is a story," said Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, executive director of American

paying taxes like the men. It

is our right to be dealt with in

cases like this on an equal

hopefully in the future as well, JWU would be working

closely with Lower House

Deputy Toujan Faisal to

affect change in these areas

In an interview with the

Jordan Times, Ms. Faisal

pointed to what she sees as

another system of inequality

poration to which "male and

female subscribers pay equal

cuts from their salaries, but

from which women receive

we have this issue and many

others to be dealt with. What

women need now is to give

their efforts a definite role

and shape. And not all of

their demands can be met

immediately, and they must

According to Ms. Faisal,

women "are also holding

back on many women's rights

legislation for now because

we need the public to be

more aware of what we are

She said she participated in

"We have the support, and

inferior services.

realise that.

through the Parliament.

She said currently, and

level.

Reformist Zionist Association (ARZA) and the team's leader. "We are here to support the peace process, and we want it brought to a satisfactory, comprehensive, permanent settlement.

Rabbi Hirsch, speaking in an interview at the Inter. Continental Hotel where the team stayed, said the delegation's mission was to "listen. to learn and to convey our impressions to public opin-

"We are not politicians and are not an official delegation," said Rabbi Hirsch. But, he added, "we are not

a general kind of group. It is historical for us. To my knowledge there was never this kind of a group coming to

He implied that the impressions that the rabbis carried home from Jordan and elsewhere in the region would have a strong bearing on the views of their congregations.

By and large, according to delegation sources. a significant number of the group members supports the establishment of an independent

Women's union to push for equality in laws

Palestinian state while others believe that the shape of a Palestinian entity is better left to direct negotiations between Israel and the Palesti-

"We have met with ordinary Jordanians in Agaba and in Petra, and also with academics here," said Rabbi Hirsch, in his mid-30s. "We are very grateful for the generous hospitality that the Jordanians are giving us ... they are very warm and friendly people... "

The rabbi voiced confidence that the peace process would be successfull. "We obviously know very well. There is a great excitement in the region, in particular in Jordan, and there is a conviction that there be mutual social and economic benefits from a settlement. We would like to contribute to that process if we can, and that is why we are here."

He said the delegation was hoping to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, but the meeting did not materialise because of scheduling prob-

Rabbi Hirsch said the American Jewish community was in touch with Arab-American leaders in order to "establish the kind of communications that were not established before.

Asked how he viewed internal Israeli opposition led by hardline rabbis against the peace process. Mr. Hirsch said: "I am not a politician and that is not why we are here. We are here because we support the policies of the current Israeli government ... a territorial compromise in exchange for a comprehensive permanent settlement in the Middle East. We support

that very, very strongly."

The tour group arrived in Israel early this week and proceeded to the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba, but a meeting with the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators there did not take place.

From Taba the group travelled to Nuweibe to catch the ferry to Aqaba and then visited Petra.

The delegation visited Madaba and the nearby Mount Nebo Thursday. It crossed the King Hussein Bridge Friday morning.

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Lower House meeting postponed

AMMAN (Petra) - The Lower House of Parliament meeting scheduled for Sunday was postponed to Wednesday, according to Acting Secretary General of the Parliament Hussein Abu Urabi. Mr. Abu Urabi gave no reason for

### Group to prepare for public safety meeting

AMMAN (Petra) - A meeting will be held in Amman on Jan. 31 to prepare for the National Public Safety Conference. Director of the Minismy of Interior Public Safety Department Mohammad Al Amad said the meeting will discuss several studies prepared by specialists from ministries, government departments and other institutions as part of the conference agenda. These studies, Mr. Ahmad said, deal with ways of preparing a national strategy on public safety and industrial security. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, called for holding the conference when he visited the Civil Desence Department (CDD) last month following a fire at the Safeway stores.

### Traffic circle to be converted

AMMAN (J.T.) — Traffic congestion at the Tla Al Ali Jubilee Circle has prompted the Amman Municipality to convert the circle into a traffic light intersection, according to Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi. Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan Times Friday that work started at the circle Thursday night when trarric is normally lighter. The work would only take a few days with little inconvenience to motorists, said the mayor, but it all depends on other services linked to the project, namely electricity and water lines which are to be in place before the traffic lights can be installed and operated, he added. Dr. Abbadi said the traffic lights between Wadi Sagra and the Rosary College in Shmeisani are among other improvements planned by the municipality.

(Continued from page 1)

airport in Washington, D.C.

by Prime Minister Abdul

Salam Majali, the King's poli-gical advisor Marwan Al Qas-

sem, Jordan's Permanent Rep-

resentative at the U.N. Adnan

Abu Odeh, Information Minis-

ter Jawad Al Anani and Jor-

dan's Ambassador to the U.S.

His Royal Highness Crown

Prince Hassan told Friday's

Yediot Aharonot daily that he

hoped 1994 would be the year

to "cross the threshold of

peace" with Israel. But said

the two countries' borders

Fayez Al Tarawneh.

King, Clinton reaffirm quest

## Agriculture minister to attend

### Qatari Islamic judges visit

### CAA group leaves for Sri Lanka

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) left Amman for Sri Lanka Friday on a several-day visit. The delegation, headed by CAA Director General Ahmad Juweiber, will hold talks with Sri Lankan officials on bilateral cooperation in air transport.

## Damascus meeting

RAMTHA (Petra) - Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Al Farhan left Amman for Damascus Friday to head Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Arab Agricultural Development Organisation which are to start Saturday.

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) - A delegation of Qatari Islamic Judges Friday visited the shrines of Prophet Mohammad's Companions in the Jordan Valley. The delegation, which arrived in Amman Thursday, was briefed by the deputy director of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Department in the northern Jordan Valley district on efforts exerted by the government to renovate and protect the shrines. Head of the delegation Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ben Saleh Al Khalifeh said the delegation's visit to Jordan aims to enhance cooperation between Jordan and Qatar in Islamic judiciary fields and expressed hope that the visit would yield fruitful results. After performing Friday prayers at Abu Obaida Amer Ben Al Jarrah Shrine, the delegation members visited Tabaqat Fahl, the site of a historical battle between Muslim and Byzantine armies in the seventh century. During their five-day stay in Jordan, the delegation members will meet with officials to exchange views with them on judicial procedures in Jordan and Qatar and benefit from Jordan's experience in Islamic judiciary fields.

Jordan Valley."

While admitting that both parties had a relatively margin-

al problem compared with the

territorial dispute Israel had

with Syria or withdrawal from

South Lebanon, Prince Hassan

said he believed Israel had a

hard time in finally accepting

recognition of Jordan's borders

and feared it may set a prece-

The border dispute between

Israel and Jordan involves pri-

marily a 320 square kilometre

region south of the Dead Sea.

tial demarcation on signing an

armistice with Jordan on April

3, 1949, but following the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 it

moved the border a few hun-

dred metres to the east to

occupy some strategic heights.

Israel had recognised an ini-

# Team talks in

AMMAN (Petra) — A high level Jordanian delegation led by Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi left Friday for Pretoria for a week-long visit and talks on ways to bolster Jordanian-South African relations.

stitutions in South Africa.

Talks will be held with President W.F. de Klerk, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, government officials, heads of political parties. and leaders of local communities and businesspersons.

On the eve of his departure. Mr. Lawzi said the talks aim at promoting Jordanian-South African relations at all economic political and trade levels now that the international sanctions have been lifted from South Africa.

The Jordanian delegation is expected to discuss supplying South Africa with phosphate and potash and boost trade links, said Mr. Lawzi. A delegation member was

quoted as telling Al Ra'i Ara-

The delegation member said Amman would be seeking to open an embassy in Pretoria, an agreement which could take place during the team's visit to

putting forth proposed amendments to the 1969 Jordanian Passports Law and the 1964 Nationality Law, which were aimed at strengthening women's rights. The proposed amendments Wednesday were referred to the Lower House Judiciary Committee, of which Ms.

Faisal is a member. She said that for additional changes to take place a wellorganised, grassroots women's rights campaign was needed, utilising public semi-— the Social Security Cornars at JWU and via other women's advocacy organisa-tions, and utilising the printed media at first, to create a higher level of public awareness about women's

rights issues. Then, constituencies must their respective dele gates in Parliament, so that these issues are brought to other deputies.

"It does not have to all be done through me only. If we generate enough awareness. then other deputies will become involved."

An area of particular concern to Ms. Faisal was employee promotion. She feels women are being wronged drastically," and that this was a major area where women's rights as workers needed to be improved. Many women are as equal-

ly trained and educated as their male counterparts, "but they are not allowed to hold higher-level posts," said Ms.

Ms. Faisal believes that women's rights activists have sometimes had "double standards in presenting their case. They ask for certain special advantages as women and mothers, but if you keep on asking for more advantages and special exceptions" ... it eventually becomes impractical for women to be employed.

"Their demands are a bit high. And some of the more extravagant demands come from the fact that they really do not feel equal to men. Women need to see themselves as absolutely equal from the beginning. We will lose some things that way initially, but eventually gain much more in the end by not being seen as special cases."

## WHAT'S GOING ON

 $\star$  Art exhibition by artist Makram Khaghandouqah at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition by artist Omar Al Basoul at the Royal

Cultural Centre. ★ Exhibition on the art of architecture at the French Cultural

Centre. ☆ Permanent exhibition of contemporary Arab artists and "Chair" exhibition at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed

Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at

Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

☆ Drama entitled "The Happy Man" at the Phoenix Gallary for Culture and Art at 7:00 p.m.

☆ Drama entitled "Hamlet Crucified Again" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

☆ Piano recital at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

# heads for

Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan are among the 13-member team which includes private sector businesspersons who will be holding talks with government and private sector in-

bic daily that the talks will also aim at promoting diplomatic

## Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company Ltd.

### **NOTICE FOR** PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

FOR **ESTABLISHING WORKSHOP FACILITIES ALONG WITH** HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND ROAD WEIGH BRIDGES

Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company Ltd. (IJC), a Joint Venture Company between M/S. Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Ltd. (JPMC), Jordan and M/S. Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC) India, is setting up a Phosphoric Acid Complex at Eshidiya in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

IJC intends to establish a Workshop Facility along with necessary Heavy Equipment and Road Weigh Bridges for their Acid Complex at Eshidiya.

The scope of work includes Design, Engineering, Supply. Erection and Commissioning of Workshop Facilities comprising Workshop Machinery/Equipment, Welding Machinery, Inspection and Testing Equipment, Tools & Tackles, Measuring Instruments, Electrical Testing Instruments and Tools and Consumable Items, along with necessary Electrical Power Distribution and Supply/Installation of Heavy Equipment and Road Weigh Bridges.

The Company intends to invite Bids on a Turnkey basis from Internationally reputed Contractors after the necessary Prequalification for the above scope of work.

As part of the Prequalification process, the Company invites Prequalification Bids from suitable Bidders. The Prequalification Document outlining the site location, detailed scope of the work to be done, brief technical details, the commercial conditions to be adhered to, and the documentation to be submitted by the Bidders has been prepared.

Bidders may note that their Prequalification Bids shall be submitted to IJC with all particulars as requested in the Prequalification Document on or before 2:00 PM on 30/3/1994.

Interested Bidders may obtain the Prequalification Document on payment by Cash/Demand Draft for JD. 100 or USD. 150 from the Chief Administration & Personnel Manager, IJC - 3rd Floor, Delmon Building, P. O. Box 926787, Amman on any working day till 28/2/1994.

BABU K. VERGHESE MANAGING DIRECTOR

### over "the southern part of the "To achieve a warm peace, Peres to consider new ideas

(Continued from page 1)

take place later on Friday. He said the two planned to meet on Saturday.

Mr. Christopher was also due to arrive on Friday and hold separate talks with Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat on Satur-

Norway's NTB news agency said PLO and Israeli officials had already secretly arrived in Oslo to discuss how to clear obstacles blocking implementation of the peace deal. Asked if he and Mr. Arafat could break the deadlock this

weekend, Mr. Peres told reporters: "I hope so." But he added he was not optimistic. We would really like to see real peace as soon as possible in the Middle East and that is a

tinue and overcome the difficulties which we are now facing," he said.
In Cairo, PLO official Yas-

we need to reach an agreement on the demarcation of the bor-

ders between the two coun-

tries," he said in his first inter-

view with an Israeli newspap-

Prince Hassan said if Jor-

dan and Israel settled the prob-

lem of sovereignty by satisfac-

torily basing themselves on the former British mandate's bor-

ders, then progress can be

"For Jordan, there's a clear

line that begins in the Jordan

Valley, passes through the middle of the river and runs to

the Red Sea," the Prince said,

noting that differences existed

made on other fronts.

ser Abed Rabbo said the disputes delaying the Israeli withand Jericho must be resolved

he hoped the Peres-Arafat

good enough reason to con-

Palestinian negotiator Nabil

"I believe that we have a few weeks in front of us and if principles and the process will

In Tel Aviv, Mr. Rabin said

drawal from the Gaza Strip

these problems are not resolved within these weeks I think the whole declaration of be in danger," Mr. Abed Rabbo told reporters.

meeting in Norway would help break the deadlock. "I hope the difficulties will be ironed out when he (Peres) sees Mr. Arafat on Saturday in Oslo," Mr. Rabin told repor-Egyptian Foreign Minister

Amr Musa told reporters that

there is a good opportunity that a Palestinian-Israeli agreement will be reached soon. Mr. Abed Rabbo said: "I hope that these talks (in Norway) will help bridge the gaps that are still existing."

Shaath, head of the PLO team in the Taba talks, said: "There is a flurry of activity that has been going on for the past two or three days and it will continue for the next week or so. hoping to break the impasse." Mr. Arafat spent more than

two hours explaining to President Hosni Mubarak his concern about what he considers the "meaningless" outcome of the latest Taba talks, sources close to the meeting told Reu-South Africa.

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## New hope for united Yemen

THE AGREEMENT signed between the domimani parties in Yemen for national reconciliation after several months of nerve-wracking leasion in the tip of the Arabian Peninsula comes as a fresh breeze of reassurance that the unity of the Yemenis is on the way to being salvaged. Tension had peaked with Tuesday's report of armed air action between the south and north, and it was not clear how far the reconciliation agreement signed on the same day would hold if indeed the report was true; and hence the relief over the reaffirmation on Thursday by both the General People's Congress (GPC) of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh that ally welcome the agreement and are committed to honouring it.

When North Yemen and South Yemen took 🐎 final step of merger in May 1990, Jordan was among the first to rejoice over the move, which should have come many years ago but was blocked by differing ideologies pursued by Se leaders in Sanaa and Aden. The merger was a beacon in the Arab sky, long dotted with simmering bitter experiences of short-lived amities and unions among the Arab countries. and when the crisis between President Saleh and Vice-President Beedh that hit the surface in mid-1993 grew steadily to alarming proportions, it appeared that the vision of a united Temen was also destined to be cast into the dustbin of Arab history.

**Sut the underlying belief that prompted** Jardan to step forward boldly with an offer of its good offices to mediate the rift was guided by the Jordanian leadership's conviction that if the leaders of south and north Yemen could overcome their deep ideological differences and merge in the first place, then it should not be difficult for them to maintain the unity either.

Indeed Yemen is a tribal-based country, and tribal interests play a large role in shaping the country's leadership. But it is also reassuring that the Yemeni people do not have any recent record of tribal eamity that would be a hurdle in joining hands and going ahead towards national progress that would serve all Yemenis.

The Yemeni leaders have now taken a historic step to reaffirm their ability to bypass pelly differences for the sake of their own prople. It is no secret that the resources of Yemen are better utilised if shared among the 13 million Yemenis united under a single leadership. The country is on its way to addressing its economic woes, and, hopefully, it would be able to achieve economic stability helped along the way by its newfound oil

### ADADIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily commented on the uneasy relations between the United States and Jordan as a result of American naval blockade on Aqaba. A statement by Frime Minister Abdel Salam Al Majali that King Hussein's visit to Washington would be partly dedicated to discussing U.S. For Linian relations interesting because we hope such relations would in move. id Tarey Masarweh, Jordan, he said, has have the planning of all American officials visiting the region about the continued siege on Aqaba, which has "stionar conomy, said the writer. The Беер дағырғұ the native of imposing sanctions on lrag comblett with maba, have not imposed similar measures. Syria, Turcist of Transas ports and the continuation. of the same on the Aquit port is unjustified by any standard since Jorn in does not manufacture rockets or nuclear weapons. to export to frages to the writer. The United States has always been hostile to his sorab Nation and it seems that it is finding Jord in as the weak link on which pressure could be exercised. especially as Jordan retused the Camp David Accord and has rejected pressures to succumb to Israel's whims and desires, sale, the writer. Furthermore, Jordan has refused to join to could non against frag air hough it was not an ally at any time in the rust of the former Societ bloc, but chose to follow a man, clistand, supporting only the Arab Nation and safeguarding is national interests, said the writer. He expressed hope that the King's visit would page the ground for better U.S. Jordanian relations that would open a new chapter of

AL DI "FOUR daily described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin decision to hold a referendum among the residents of the Go an Heights to sound out their views about withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Linds as a way of trying to escape the implementation of U.N. esolutions. The paper said that the Go in is occupied territory and it is imperative on the Israelis to give that territory when the peace agreement has been signed, to so of the colonies built on that land. Jordanian Perspective

# Jordan needs action, not assurances, regarding its stand

FRIDAY'S meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton was one of the key links in a chain and as important as the American leader's Jan. 16 summit in Geneva with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in the quest for an equitable, just, comprehensive and durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

As far as we in Jordan are concerned, it was an opportunity for us to restate our firm commitment to a negotiated settlement to the conflict and insist on as much clarity and vision in the U.S. approach to Jordan as King Hussein's approach to the peace process.

Jordan has maintained a very consistent, pragmatic and frank policy vis-a-vis the Middle East peace and has done whatever was expected of it in terms of creating an atmosphere conducive to substantial peace negotiations on its own track of talks with Israel. Moreover, King Hussein has always played a strong influential role with the other Arab parties involved in the negotiations to move towards pragmatism and adopt realistic approaches.

But very unfortunately, it would seem that Jordan was, most of the time, taken for granted, a grievance that was hopefully addressed in Friday's White House meeting.

For one thing, despite Jordan's enthusiastic participation in the peace process - regardless of all political risks posed by Israel's intransigence supported by its allies - the Kingdom continues to be punished for things it did not do and finds itself under strange pressures into committing itself to things that do

not make political or economic sense.

Jordan was the first in the Middle East to openly embrace the idea of launching peace talks with Israel after advocating a peaceful settlement for decades. Granted, the participation was consistent with Jordan's quest for peace and serves the Kingdom's interests, but it ran a high risk by assuming the lead in the Arab World within a framework of peace talks which had no guarantees of success and which deliberately downplayed the key role of the Palestinians in the initial stage. Optimism against all odds was the only weapon Jordan possessed in that risky game. But it met with more than its share of obligations.

It was and still is an insult to Jordan that despite its well-known stands and commitments its enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq continues to be doubted. All words of commendations for its adherence to the sanctions fade into insignificance when we look at the situation on the ground.

Our importers incur unwarranted costly delays in getting their goods because of the overzealous inspection of goodsentering Aqaba. Our exports are losing their traditional edge in the international market, threatening to deprive us of much needed foreign exchange.

Our exports to Iraq of goods exempt from the sanctions face what is undoubtedly a discriminatory policy at the U.N.

Sanctions Committee. Overlooked in the short-sighted approach to Jordan is also the fact that the binding principle in the Kingdom's stand vis-a-vis all conflicts, including the Gulf crisis, has been, is and will remain to be the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force, whether in the Middle East or elsewhere. The commitment to that principle is further cemented by the very fact that part of Jordan's own territory is under occupation along with the land of our Palestinian. Syrian and Lebanese

Over and above everything, our deep concern for the 18 million Iraqi people suffering under the sanctions is automatically interpreted as political support. No consideration seems to be given to the strong relations that bind the Iraqis and Jordanians at the popular level.

The Jordanian economy has taken severe beatings, mainly because of incidents and events that were not of Jordanian making. Of course, there had been shortcomings in our economic management in the past, but the fact remains that the bulk of its huge foreign debts, one of the highest per capita indebtedness in the world, was incurred as a result of unfulfilled promises and the Kingdom's needs to cope with the

problems created by external influences and factors. Jordan relied upon the U.S. for all its defence need for nearly three decades, only to be told that it could not expect any more American supplies. Given the fact that Jordan's Armed Forces have long used to American equipment and American technology, it was another challenge for the Kingdom to sustain its defence capabilities.

We have somehow survived all these challenges and still upheld our principles and commitments. And now is the time for us to demand from the international community, particularly the sole superpower, to reciprocate with the same clarity and commitment that we displayed to international law. legitimacy and decisions.

Hopefully, the Clinton administration, having had very close dealings with the intricacies of the Middle East and the Arah-Israeli conflict after sponsoring the landmark conference in Madrid in October 1991, has clearly understood the Jordanian position. What we are asking for is not unjust or unfair simply because our demands remain very much within the great principles that the United States of America have thrived over the decades and emerged as the leading interna-

- That no more pressure be applied on Jordan to do things

it cannot and will not in terms of further displaying its commitment to dialogue, peace and coexistence.

We have done enough, and any more gestures and actions have to wait definite Israeli reciprocation and clear commitment to honouring the rights of the Arabs.

- That Washington put into practice its recognition and appreciation of the key Jordanian role in the Middle East and its consistent contribution to making peace a reality. This would mean abandoning the policy of taking Jordan for

granted all the time. The Kingdom has its genuine concerns and these have to be addressed before we move any further. - That Washington appreciate the fact that regional economic development essentially means interaction among all players in the region in an atmosphere of peace and understandings. No one could or should be held at gunpoint and asked to cooperate in an area where long-term commit-

ment is the key to success. - That, for once. Washington rise to the expectations of the international community, particularly the Arab World, and adopt a stand vis-a-vis Israel based on international legitimacy

If pressure is what it takes Israel to accept the basic essentials of a just and comprehensive settlement, then let pressure be applied; needless to say, the U.S. is the only party that could apply any pressure of any significance on Israel.

— That Jordan be spared from being turned into a pawn and squeezed in the battle fo wits between Washington and Baghdad. Our concern is for the Iraqi people and no matter what shape the political leadership in Baghdad assumes our

support and sympathy for the Iraqi people will not diminish.

The U.S. and other leading players in the Security Council should remove the self-imposed political veil while dealing with Jordan and the sanctions against Iraq. The obvious fact that stares everyone right in the face is that while the focus of sanctions enforcement is on Jordan, wide loopholes exist elsewhere for sanction-busters. If the enforcers are unable to check them, it should not mean that Jordan is to be squeezed further and further until it bursts.

We have stated our case time and again, and we are told every time that everyone appreciates Jordan's adherence to the sanctions and the Kingdom's grievances would soon be addressed. We have been hearing it for more than two years now, while our economic losses have mounted, particularly at a time when we need our all resources and energies to address our external financial burdens, but have yet to feel the practical forms of such appreciation and recognition.

We are only seeking justice and we hope that this time around our voice will not only be heard but be responded to in positive tones, in terms of action rather than assurances.

## Inman withdrawal adds to Clinton foreign policy woes

By Charles Aldinger Reuter

WASHINGTON - Bobby Ray Inman's bitter withdrawal of his nomination to replace Defence Secretary Les Aspin raises a major new problem for President Bill Clinton in reshaping his battered foreign

Analysts said Mr. Inman's decision a week before his expected Senate confirmation was a blow to Mr. Clinton. who is under pressure to solve domestic problems and deal smoothly with challenges by Russia. Eastern Europe. North Korea and China.

"It clearly does not help the president," retired Navy Admiral and former deputy CIA Director Inman conceded to reporters at an Austin. Texas, news conference Tues-

Mr. Inman denied any wrongdoing in not previously paying social security taxes for maid, sharply attacked New York Times columnist William Safire for criticising him and said he had decided to avoid the glare of further public ser-

But that left this problem in Mr. Clinton's lap

The state and defence departments are cornerstones of U.S. foreign policy and analysts say the Pentagon now appears rudderless while Mr. Clinton, Mr. Aspin and Secretary of State Warren Christopher remain under attack for stumbling over foreign hurdles



from Somalia to Bosnia. Pentagon spokeswoman Kathleen Delaski said Mr. Aspin, who quit last month amid reports that he had lost Mr. Clinton's confidence, has agreed to a White House request that he stay on as secret-

ary until a successor can be One prospect mentioned

prominently and quickly was Deputy Defence Secretary William Perry, the number two official at the Pentagon and an expert on the militaryindustrial complex.

"The Inman thing and other recent events, including the West's half-empty threat of bombing in Bosnia, may not be

not, they emphasise the question about his policy." unalyst Eliot Cohen of the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute in Washington.

"At best, it's another problem for the president. At worst, it's a major embarrassment," added Joshua Epstein of the Brookings Institution. "By nominating a retired admiral in the first place. Clinton tried to make peace with the military in the wake of the gay issue. But now even that has fallen through," said Mr. Epstein, who with others has questioned whether a retired military officer should run the Defence Department.

Representative Patricia Schroeder, a Colorada Democrat and member of the House Armed Services Committee. criticised Mr. Inman for accepting the nomination and then deciding he was not willing to put up with criticism.

'I'm sure the president would have wished he had thought of that much earlier because a lot of time has been wasted," she told Cable News

Mr.Inman had been expected to be confirmed by the Senate after Armed Services Committee hearings scheduled next week. Instead he sent a letter of withdrawal to Mr. Clinton and told a Texas news conference Tuesday that he never sought the job, did not want it and had decided not to

take it. He told reporters he had no doubt he would be confirmed but he had received word that he would face tough partisan questions from Senate Republicans over private business ventures and over whether he should have paid social security taxes for a former maid.

The former admiral also lashed out at columnist Safire for attacking him as a press manipulator and tax cheater. and he noted that Mr. Clinton himself was facing what he said were untimely questions over former business dealings in Arkansas.

"Why would you put up with that kind of garbage just to do public service?" Mr. Inman asked rhetorically. "... I don't wish to subject myself to that on a daily basis.

## Departure of Russian reformer embarrassing for Clinton

B: Carol Giacomo Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials are trying to put the best face on the departure of Yegor Gaidar and Boris Fyodorov from the Russian government. an embarrassing turn for Presi-dent Clinton that augurs omi-

nously for reform efforts. Mr. Gaidar, architect of Russia's market reforms, has been viewed here as a here and driving force in his country's tortuous transition from command economy to capitalism.

Many experts, including some within the Clinton administration, have considered the 37-year-old economist a shining symbol of the reform effort and long ago warned that his premature departure would

have to be viewed negatively. Mr. Gaidar was first deputy prime munister and economics minister in President Boris

Yeltsin's outgoing cabinet. Sunday, he sent shock waves when he rejected an offer to remain in a new government. He said his power was slashed after ult: a-nationalists and communists made stunning gains in last month's parliamentary elections and he warned the cabinet was embarking on heavy spending that would compromise his re-

Monday, Finance Minister Fyodorov, another key reformer, compounded the situation by turning down an offer to join the new government, although the decision may not

Word of the defections came oon after Mr. Clinton, in Moscow, embraced Mr. Yeltsin almost without qualification and heard him promise to continue a market-oriented course despite expected roadhlocks from the new, more con-

servative legislature. Secretary of State Warren Christopher tried to put the most benign face on what was a most disappointing develop-ment for the administration.

Speaking on NBC television's "meet the press" Sunday, he allowed that Mr. Gaidar is "a very interesting, attractive person" but stressed that the economist was "the head of a party that didn't do very well in the (Russian par-

liamentary) elections. "So I wouldn't attribute undue significance to his leaving. There are other very strong reformers on President Yeltsin's team. And I think the important thing is President Yeltsin's commitment to reform, which he gave and reaf-firmed to President Clinton." Mr. Christopher said.

"I don't think it's particularly harmful if the commitment to the reform goes ahead and other reformers are there." he said, adding: "There needs to be a greater sensitivity to the effect of reforms on the people in the country.

But other expert assess-ments were much harsher. Mr. Gaidar's resignation "is a very serious blow" and it is misleading to expect Mr. Yeltsin could possibly take reforms into a higher gear at this time, Marshall Goldman of Harvard University's Russian Research Centre said in an interview.

"When you lose an election as Gaidar did... you can't expect to have more power or a say" and it demonstrates a lack of understanding of politics to suggest otherwise, he said. adding: "It's clear Mr. Yeltsin is tacking away from reforms."

He suggested the United States should continue to support reform efforts, underwriting when possible certain initiatives, such as a programme designed to help fund the privatisation of large state-run in-

Mr. Gaidar has quit or threatened to quit on previous occasions and analysts do not rule out the possibility he is once again seeking political leverage to try to assure reforms stay on course and that inflationary spending is

Ironically, despite the strong support Mr. Clinton has given Yeltsin and the considerable time the two leaders spent together last week, there were indications the administration did not know in advance that Mr. Gaidar might depart.

curbed.

Russian expert Harley Balzer of rigotown University said there is little Mr. Clinton can do but continue to back Mr. Yeltsin until he sees what the new Russian government actually does.

It would be nice if after replacing Mr. Gaidar, who is unpopular. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomydrin would push forward with radical reform but that is unlikely, he

"What I expect will happen is that in the name of softening the transition (to a market system) and providing social welfare for people, they will slow things down and bail out the (state-run) enterprises. olonging the agony."

### **LETTERS**

## Democracy is what one makes it

To the Editor:

I would like to take issue with Michael Kinsley's article. "Is democracy loosing its romance" (Jordan Times, Jan. 16.

The adage that money is as money does, does aptly apply to democracy; democracy is as democracy does. Democracy can never loose its romance. It could have its

innocence tarnished, its tenets manipulated and its luster blurred, but it will never lose the tinglings of romance. Democracy, by any other appellation, when devoid of romance, is a form of government without a soul, without hope, the ever energising factor to strive for better things to

True, democracy is what the idealist seeks. Applied democracy, after a fashion of sorts, is what the realist transitionally plans for.

Yet, the democracy with the ample reserves of romance is the one that works.

Napoleon was asked: "Which is the best army?" He replied: "Certainly not the French army, but the victorious one." Need we say more?

Ludwig W. Tamari,

Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its teaders on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the teturn of unused manuscripts.

### Basel Assad dies in accident

(Continued from page 1)

Beirut presidential palace called Mr. Assad's son "another martyr offered by Syria in its quest for the glory of the Arab Nation and peace in the Middle East and Lebanon."

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Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a longtime foe of Hafez Al Assad, expressed his "profound sorrow and grief" in a condolence letter,

Mr. Assad took power in a 1970 bloodless coup and has ruled Syria through a government dominated by his minority Alawite Muslim sect.

Basel had showed little taste for the political spotligth until two years ago, when his photograph\_began popping up all over Damascus.

He appeared to have widespread support among the the PLO news agency WAFA powerful security service and

### Malhas laments gaps in legislation

(Continued from page 1)

Ambassador in Amman "calls every day to ask about regulations that he calls The French ambassador calls always and asks me to

facilitate shipping," Shihan quoted the minister as saying. As for medicine, Dr. Malhas told the Jordan Times that there were no "good standards and specifications" that would govern their distribution in the Kingdom and many of the drugs in the market were not registered in

the Ministry of Health. He said the law governing the use and distribution of drugs "was among the duties of the committee on the practice of pharmacy. This is unacceptable "

Accordingly, the ministry started to set up a directorate for medicine and initiated new regulations on medicine.

The ministry started to push for the implementation of the law that pharmacies should be run by pharmacists. The Higher Court of Justice ruled in that direction but "pressure was applied" and the Council for the Interpretation of the Law overruled the court, said Dr.

Shihan quoted the minister as saying that some of the drugs on the market "are 100 per cent useless."

"I am not claiming that all the drugs on the market do not conform to standards but many of them do not," Shihan, quoted Dr. Malhas as

The paper quoted the Malhas told the Jordan minister as saying that drug ... Times. He also said that Shimerchants also charge exhorbitant prices for the drugs they import. The paper also

quoted Dr. Malhas as saying that some medicine importers threatened to raise the prices of drugs if the ministry ap-

Shihan quoted Dr. Malhas as saying that he has set up a department that would take control of authorising the entry of medicine into the mar-

plied its new, stiffer regula-

The paper quoted the minister as saying that a powerful group of food and drug importers are trying to abort his efforts to introduce strict legislations that would ensure the safety of foods and drugs sold on the market.

Shihan said the minister told it that his measure made him the target of a "hostile campaign abetted by some in the press (whose help was solicited) by the drug mer-chants in the country." But the paper quoted Dr. Malhas as saying that he will pursue his efforts to put the matter

Shihan quoted Dr. Malhas as saying that he has explained the situation to the prime minister, Abdul Salam Majali, and submitted his resignation over the issue twice. But Dr. Majali had "a

different view on the issue; he is for calming the situation," Shihan quoted Dr. Malhas as saying.

In banner front page headlines, Shihan quoted Dr. Malahas as saying that "our food and medicine is (unfit for consumption), food importers are feeding us garbage, and look for cancer in the food you eat."

han changed the focus of what he said by taking his words out of context.

among senior military figures, including General Ali Duba. the former head of military intelligence and long one of

Mr. Assad closest aides. Speculation about Basel's succession increased when Mr. Assad's younger brother Rifaat returned in 1992 from

eight years of exile in Europe. In 1984, Rifaat had brought Syria perilously close to civil war by leading his troops of the Defence Companies, a special security force, onto the streets of the capital in a bid to seize power after the president suf-

fered a heart attack in 1984. Since returning to Syria, Rifaat has kept a low profile, but he remains a dark horse in the political arena.

President Assad, who has had health problems, has reportedly been preparing the succession for several months by giving his son increasing responsibilities, including the key Syrian dossier of Lebanon. The death raises questions

about who will succeed the Syrian leader. There have been reports of rivalry within the family and Rifaat, a vice president, has always been considered influential. Syria has just returned to the

top of the Middle East agenda following Mr. Assad's strong call for peace at a summit meeting with President Bill Clinton in Geneva on Sunday. The Syrian leader had been

scheduled to brief Egyptian

President Hosni Mubarak on the summit at talks in Cairo on Saturday. Chief negotiators were to resume bilateral Middle East peace talks in Washington on

Monday. Syria suspended the talks in September after Israel signed its peace deal with the

Basel's death was first announced in Beirut by Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri. Deputies suspended their budget debate and declared five days mourning after the

The young Assad was a regular visitor to Beirut for talks with the leaders of Lebanon, where Syria remains the key foreign power broker with

35,000 troops deployed. He was born March 23, 1962 and was the eldest of Mr. Assad's four sons. He studied civil engineering and was an accomplished sportsman, good at horseriding, sailing, shooting and parachuting.

The president and his wife Aniseh have five children, the eldest being their daughter

Of Mr. Assad's other three sons - Bashar studied medicine, Mahir business administration and Majd, the youngest, electrical engineer-

ing.
Voice of Lebanon radio, of the right-wing Falange Party which had long fought Syrian's influence over Lebanon, described Basel's death as "a big loss for the entire Arab Na-A radio and television run

by Lebanese Forces, the Falange's former armed wing, were also observing the mourning along with state-run Tele-Liban, official Radio Lebanon and other private media. They interrupted regular programmes to broadcast classical music and Koranic

Mr. Berri also called on Lebanon's 128 Christian and Muslim deputies to meet early Saturday at parliament house to form a motorcade and head

### Yemeni leaders affirm accord

(Continued from page 1)

the agreement.

In letters to President Saleh and Vice President Beedh, Prince Hassan said: "You have proven with God's will your ability to settle crisis and reach a happy conclusion for the dispute at the national level."

"I congratulate you on your achievement, and we look forward towards other steps that would guarantee the continuation of the agreement which would ensure further gains and safeguard Yemen's higher national interest," the Regent

The Regent told the Yemeni Yemeni unity.

leaders: "Yemen unity has now escaped from hostile attempts and that is largely due to your perseverance and diligence and the Yemeni people's determination to protect their sacred unity.

The Jordanian leadership, government and people share with the Yemeni people their joy over this accomplishment

Acting Prime Minister Maan Abu Nuwar Friday welcomed the Yemeni agreement and said the signing of the pact highlighted the ability of the Yemeni leaders to overcome all problems for the sake of

## British birds of prey soar, but farmland species plummet

By Michael Rank Reuter

LONDON — The magnificent peregrine falcon and other once endangered birds of prev are now flourishing but intensive agriculture has caused the decline of many British farmland species, according to a new ornithological atlas.

Leading omithologist David Tomlinson says "the new atlas of breeding birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-91" is "no doubt... the most important work on Britain's birds this century.

Compiling the atlas, pub-lished by T. and A.D. Poyser, was a daunting task. Some 5,000 volunteers took part in the survey, providing 1,262,231 records from more than 40,000 two kilometre squares, known as tetrads.

Data on the distribution and habitat of 219 species were analysed by computer, resulting in colour maps showing the numbers of each species and how these have changed since an earlier atlas was published

Senior author David Gibbons said the fall in the num-

farmland birds was "very alarming indeed," and that it reflected the ever increasing intensification of agriculture over recent decades.

A similar decline has occurred on the European mainland and has been highlighted in Dutch and Swedish surveys. Mr. Gibbons said. No fewer than 23 British

farmland species have decreased in number and only three have increased. Mr. Gibbons said a shift from spring to winter sowing of

cereals together with increased pesticide and fertiliser use appeared to be to blame. Bird densities on intensively farmed arable land are much lower... earlier and ear-

lier harvesting is very destructive of nests. The glorious song of the skylark, once a regular feature of spring walks in open country, is now heard much less than it was, reflecting the fact that the population has fallen from three million breeding

More seriously, the com bunting, a once common if

pairs to 1.5 million in the last

unspectacular brown bird of fields and meadows, has decreased by 76 per cent and is feared extinct as a breeding species in Ireland.

But Mr. Gibbons said there was some cause for optimism, as the European Union (EU) was now attempting to take much agricultural land out of production through so-called "setaside" schemes obliging farmers to leave 15 per cent of their land untilled.

The aim is to reduce the EU's vast food mountains as

well as to protect wildlife. Mr. Gibbons is encouraged by plans to introduce setaside on a five-year rather than a one-year basis in 1994. At present land left alone one year can be ploughed up the next. destroying nests and habitat.

"Setaside can act like a magnet. This could be very benefi-cial," Mr. Gibbons said, adding that it accounted for almost 10 per cent of the entire British land area.

The atlas has good news to report as well as bad. Birds of prey in particular have made a spectacular recovery after being almost wiped out by

farm chemicals that were used almost indiscriminately 20 or

30 years ago.
Organochlorine pesticides, which cause thinning of the eggshell and other lethal damage, are now banned under EU

As a result, 13 out of 15 British bird of prey species have increased in population in the last 20 years and peregrine falcon numbers are now at their highest known level, the atlas reports.

All in all, the atlas shows the British bird population is "in a fairly healthy state," Mr. Gibbons says. Ornithologists are already speculating on which species may breed here next.

Many would place a bet on the penduline tit, whose range has moved markedly westwards across Europe in recent years, or the spoonbill, a tall, heron-like waterbird whose breeding population is increasing substantially in the Nether-

"One sure thing about birds is, you never know what they are going to do next." said James Ferguson-Lees, a senior adviser on the atlas.

## Tasting centre to improve African coffee quality

By David Gault Reuter

ABIDJAN — A new tasting centre in Abidjan is at the frontline of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation's drive to

boost the quality image of African coffees. The aim of the centre, inaugurated in July, was to improve the taste characteristics of African coffee through a wideranging research and training programme. IACO Deputy

General Secretary Mpungi Buyungu told Reuters. Training of tasters from national laboratories will be a priority. "We expect the first dozen students to enrol at the centre i. March 1994," Mr.

Buyungu said. Arabica and mixed arabica/ robusta producers already had trained liquoring instructors, he said, so the programme was

intended mainly for students from robusta producing coun-

Tasters use standard techniques for roasting, grinding and brewing coffee and judge the liquor by aroma, taste, mouthfeel and after-taste. Their assessments are subjective. based on their experience and memory, so a long training period is necessary.

The IACO's candidates will spend at least one year at the centre and then return to their, own countries for a further two years training under the supervision of visiting instructors. At the end of three years the tasters will be qualified to coach trainees in their own

The centre is also charged with encouraging IACO member countries to better equip existing laboratories and to

create new ones, particularly in robusta producing countries. Apart from Ivory Coast, only two robusta producers. Zaire and Uganda, currently have tasting facilities, but they also

In countries, like Kenya, where the best quality arabicas are grown, coffee is graded by taste before export. But until now robusta has been treated as a bulk commodity and there has been little effort in the trade to distinguish between types.

The centre's test collection of African coffees had been steadily increased and there were now 116 samples, sent from 16 of IACO's 25 member countries, Mr. Buyungu said.

development of quality Afri-

can blends and in the search

age robusta content. "These will be used in the

for niche markets," he said. He showed Reuters a sample of popular Dutch ground coffee whose flavour they were trying to match in the labora-

if we can find the right blend, then markets will open up for us (African countries),'

A typical blend contained around 70 per cent arabica and 30 per cent robusta, Mr. Buyungu said, although consumers in northern Europe and North America prefer arabica rich blends and those in southern Europe tend to drink blends with a higher than aver-

"We plan to increase dialogue with the trade in consuming countries to determine their exact needs," he added.

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"Best Carrier to the Middle East"

"Most Efficient Cabin Crew" (Runner Up)

"Best Marketing Campaign" (Runner Up)

"Best Business Class" (Runner Up)

"Best Economy Class" (Runner Up)

# Fyodorov warns of diving rouble and high inflation

a news conference.

chenko said.

The rouble has lost 15 per

cent since Mr. Gaidar's exit

and nearly 30 per cent so far

this month. The central bank has spent \$1 billion so far this

year — in trying to defend the

currency reserves of \$4.4 bil-

lion — in trying to defend the

currency conservative central

bank chairman Viktor Gerash-

The rouble bounced back

from record lows on Thursday

and climbed 3.4 per cent to 1.553 to the dollar on the

Moscow Currency Exchange

on central bank dollar sales.

cannot have the economy on

"In any country, foreign ex-change intervention is not the

sole instrument of central bank

monetary policy. When your

car breaks down, you cannot

But Mr. Tulin said the bank

Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov left his job Thursday, warning of a plunging rouble and a lurch into hyperinflation if the Russian government adopted a new populist

Mr. Fyodorov, the darling of Western financial markets last year with his tough talk and even tougher fiscal policies. said he could no longer work in a government that covered its spending simply by printing more and more money.

"I have reached the limit where we can push for the stability of the rouble or normal market reforms." the outgoing minister told a news con-

"A change of policy which the prime minister outlined today includes a promise to fight inflation with 'non-monetary methods'. I do not know what this means, but I am sure it means the end to a policy of financial stabilisation." he

Mr. Fyodorov said the rouble, which traded Thursday at 553 to the dollar on the tiny Moscow Currency Exchange. could tumble to 12,000 to the dollar by the end of the year. Inflation would remain under control for the next couple of months but would take off in April, eating away at the value of peoples' savings.

"If there are no savings there is no investment and there is no rise in output. And as a result, we will have ... a fall in the real incomes of the population," he explained.

Mr. Fyodorov said soaring inflation and a collapse in the rouble might encourage the new government to adopt nistration methods" to bring the situation under con-

trol.
This could include setting fixed exchange rates - a clear departure from the marketoriented policies followed by Mr. Fyodorov and other reformers in the Russian govern-

Mr. Fyodorov's departure followed a decision from Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and President Boris Yeltsin to ignore the reformer's demands that two leading conservative figures be ousted from a new

line-up of policy-makers.

A Yeltsin decree published Thursday only offered Mr. Fyodorov, a deputy prime minister in the outgoing government, the post of finance

Mr. Chernomyrdin sweetened the blow with a tiny

compensation prize - he said the finance minister would be responsible for relations with in ernational organisations and ta ks on foreign debts. Mr. F odorov scorned the offer.

"I should inform you that on Jan. 18 I made clear my disagreement with the proposals made to me. Today Yeltsin's decree shows my conditions were not accepted," Mr. Fyedorov said.

Mr. Fyodorov said the government already funded between 30 and 35 per cent of its expenditure simply by printing more roubles. This could double to 70 per cent if the new government adopted spending plans aimed at protecting ailing

"We are on the brink of Ukrainianisation," he said, referring to economic disaster in next-door Ukraine where prices have been rising at 80 per cent a month and the cur-rency tumbled virtually to oblivion before a trightened government slapped on new currency controls. Russia's central bank said

Thursday it was in no position to put on the monetary brakes as the country looked set to raise spending under a new-

Senior central bank officials fix it solely by oiling the enhoped to stop a frenzied run on gine." he pointed out. "We cannot solve all our the rouble, fuelled by reform

problems by intervening on the boss Yegor Gaidar's resignaforeign exchange market. The tion on Sunday, but said the strength of the battered curfuture of the rouble rate will rency would ultimately depend depend on the efficiency of the on future government policies.
"Will there be a stabilisation government polícies," he said. Bankers have urged a hike in in the rouble? I don't know. Nobody knows." central bank deputy head Dmitry Tulin told

interest rates to restore confidence in the rouble - a move which would anger Russia's powerful industrial barons who demand higher state subsidies.

Mr. Tulin was not forthcoming: "Not a single time in our history of a market economy the central bank has never changed interest rates only to support the rouble against the dollar. I do not have powers to talk about central bank plans on interest rates."

"We face very serious problems with our exchange rate. the fall in production and uncertain political situation. Alexander Khandruyev. another central bank deputy head, told Reuters.

'We aim to carry out a moderately tough monetary policy. Our main task on theforeign exchange markets is to avoid sharp fluctuations. We'll keep on intervening in reasonable volumes.

Mr. Gerashchenko, a former Soviet State Bank chief, wor-

ing foreign investment.

investment forum.

ries more about falling production levels than restoring confidence in the national currency.

Bankers saw his staying in office as a victory for conservatives who will be represented in the cabinet by First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets, who has strong links with industrial

"Gerashchenko? give me time for a one-way ticket ut." said one Western banker. "If Gerashchenko will head the central bank, we can expect a loosening of credit right away. Mr. Gerashchenko may not think so, but lax money does lead to higher inflation."

Mr. Chernomyrdin's upward revision in inflation targets gave the market an early clue on the government's future policy.

The increasingly powerful centrist prime minister told a news conference that inflation targets would be revised to 15-18 per cent a month in the first half of 1994 compared with a 1993 low of 12 per cent in December.

He also said the government targetted a monthly inflation of eight or nine per cent by the end of 1994, above a target of five per cent agreed with the International Monetary Fund

last year.

African trade bloc chief

slams bureaucracy

LUSAKA (R) - The head of the 21-member Africa trade

bloc, Preferential Trade Area (PTA), has said that

'bureaucratic bottlenecks" in member states were discourag-

bureaucratic bottlenecks in investment administration of host

countries," PTA Chairman Mbingu Wa Mutarika told an

tomorrow or next week' as well as reduce corruption in

investment administration," he said.

Mr. Wa Mutarika said he was concerned at the slow rate of

industrial development in the region, blaming rigid economic structures, outdated technology and lack of resources. "We continue to produce what we do not consume and

consume what we do not produce... we have failed to add

value to our products and hence increase export earnings."

DHL reveals investment,

development plans in M.E.

CLIENTS attending a DIH Worldwide Express reception at

the Amman Marriott Horel Jast Wednesday learnt more of the company's investment and decelopment plans for the Middle

in handling systems, automation, facilities, communications and information technology," said Peter Wilson, DHL's countrymanager — Jordan, "Central to this is a \$9 million

Regional Distribution Centre (RDC) which opened in Bahrain

in November 1993. It is a strategically important element in

our development plans for Jordan and the region and will

The function attended by senior government officials,

The facility is ideally positioned airside at Bahrain's

international airport, occupying an 44,000 acre site and

incorporates the latest bar code scanning technology, capable

of sorting up to 4,000 parcels and 8,000 documents per hour,

handling equipment has been installed for airline containers

accommodate our clients' growing demands for a wide and

comprehensive range of expedited services, particularly the

parcels and freight sector, now, and well into the year 2000,"

As an integral part of the distribution centre, mechanised

"The regional Distribution Centre has been purpose built to

prominent local businessmen and senior management from DHL, included a video presentation on the RDC, which is the

deliver customers into the 21st century.

most advanced of its kind in the world.

"More than \$60 million is to be spent over a five year period

One factor that frustrates foreign investors is the

"We are determined to do away with the attitude of 'come

## Lira crash may hurt foreign investment in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) - Failure by Turkish monetary authorities to control swings in the lira could deter foreigners from investing in Turkey, foreign executives said Thursday.
"The situation is a bit sour

now. Foreign investments will be affected unfavourably if this trend continues or leads to other imbalances." said Abdul Rahman Ariman, secretarygeneral of the Association for Foreign Capital (YASED) in Turkey.

The lira ended at 17,000 to the dollar on the inter-bank market after slumping 12.1 per cent on Wednesday to close at 18,500. It snapped back early on Thursday to 15,000 in response to central bank intervention, but edged lower in the afternoon.

Mr. Ariman expected direct foreign investments to total just under \$1 billion at end-1993, down from \$1.2 billion a year ago. Nine-month foreign investment inflow was \$650 million.

Foreigners have so far relied on a stable lira, which had been falling roughly in line with inflation. It lost 69 per cent against the dollar last year when inflation ran at 71.1 per cent.

But this week's sudden dip in the lira raised fears that the government had lost its grip on the currency, due to dwindling foreign exchange reserves at the central bank. Foreign company officials

were worried about rising costs and narrowing profit margins once cash is transferred abroad.

"The fall in the lira has

pushed up our import costs and put pressure on retail prices, said Erhan Key, public affairs manager for Philsa, a cigarettemaking joint venture between the U.S. Philip Morris Turkish Industrial Sabanci Holding. Philsa, which is manufactur-

ing Mariboro in Turkey, plans to invest \$400 million at its plant in Torbali.

He said all import-oriented companies in Turkey would see their costs spiral upwards as lira outlays for dollars rise. But a Japanese company official was more optimistic.

The return on investments is what counts at the end of the day," said Nihat Avcier, a manager at Mitsubishi Corporation. "A foreign company will transfer home its earnings in hard currency. If it is able to do so, there will be no problems.

Brokers said there was no immediate flight of foreign capital from Islanbul's stock market on Thursday, when the composite index gained almost six per cent to end at 27,024.85.

Mr. Ariman said foreigners had injected about \$1 billion into the market in 1993, when it jumped 194 per cent in dollar terms.

"Although foreign investors are concerned with the currency problem, there's been no panic. Most of them are here for the long term." said Landen Thomas at Global Brokerage House.

"It's stupid to sell right now. We tell them to wait and see the exchange rate and then make the decision," Mr. Tho-

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 22, 1994 By Thomas S Pierson. Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make sure that your activities today are well organised and that other realise that you have the necessary stamina to complete any project you undertake-Work toward a fine but practical

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make sure you contact close ties before night falls to get their aid and ideas for completing vital personal affairs which must be

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Day hours give you every oppor-tunity to quietly learn from au-thorities what they are willing to do to assist in your personal and career aspiration.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can start a whole new upswing in your affairs by searching your paper and other good printed media for ideas and in-

formation you desire. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) The future can be brighter and easier if you adopt more modern systems in personal, business and civic endeavours

you are involved with. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) By attending to projects you will be inspired how to deal with partners and other important ties more wisely. Have respect for their ideas, too,

VIRGO: (August 22 to Septemher 22) Be of service and an inspiration to others during dayhours. Then be sure to get out with finest associates in the evening for a really wonderful time. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Important you show real affection for those you love and live in such a way that you become an inspiration for them and others around you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be certain until the sun sets that you follow the the future can be more harmonious. Step out in the evening.

Fina

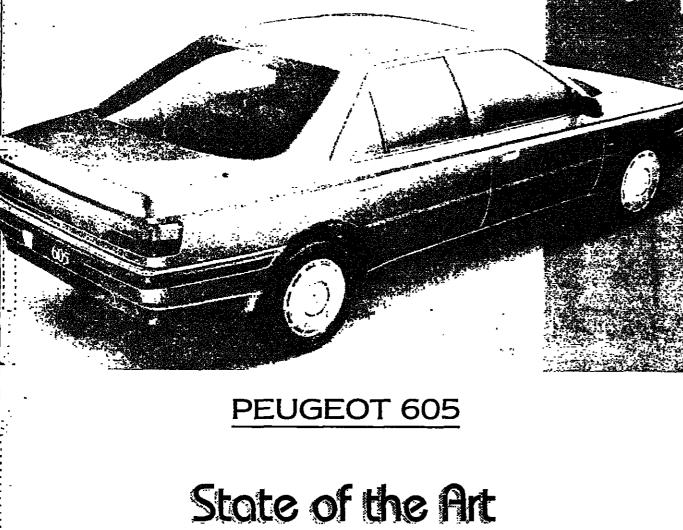
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SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Before lun-cheon is the best time to call others and discuss what you have in mind. Later, be equally honest and courteous with family ties.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Bring to mind the fine tenets under which you were reared and by combing them with own proven philosophy, the future can be much brighter.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Show that you are capable of raising level of con-sciousness during the day time and become an inspiration to others. They make fine constructive plans for the future.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Meditation at locations of your choice or in the quiet of your room will help you to plan the future more wisely in accord with modern methods.



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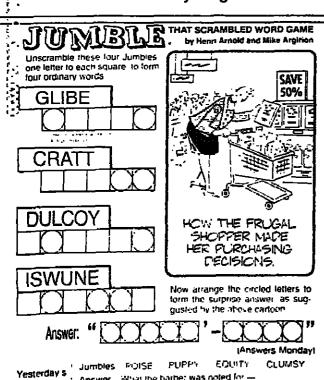
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# THE BETTER HALF By Harri:

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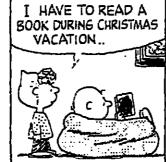
"Our marriage counselor told me to stop blaming everything on you. So now I blame everything on her!"



What the barbet was noted for — HIS CUIP QUIPS

: Answer

### **Peanuts**





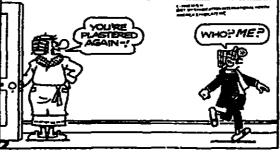


and other freight.



### **Andy Capp**

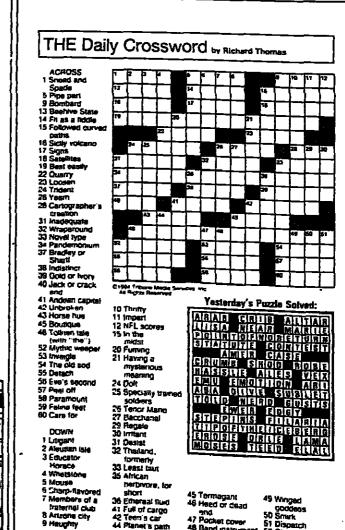






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**Jordan Times Financial** in co-operation with Markets Cairo Amman Bank



Currency	I MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MT/E
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.12	3.31	3.62
Sterling Pound	5.18	5.12	5.06	5.00
Deutsche Mark	5.00	5.81	5.56	5.25
Swiss Franc	5.93	3.81	3.62	3.50
French Franc	6.45	6.20	5.88	5.51
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.15	2.00	1.90
European Currency Unit	6.43	6.25	6.00	5.50

Control Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Stilletin Date:  $20 \cdot 7 \cdot 1994$ 

Сигтелсу	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7050	0.7070
Sterling Pound	1.0505	1.0558
Deutsche Mark	0.4036	0.4056
Swiss Franc	0.4826	0.4850
French Franc	0.1167	0.1193
Japanese Yen	0.6320	0-6352
Dutch Guilder	0.3603	0.3621
Swedish Krona	****	****
Italian Ura	0.0415	0.0417
Belgian Franc	214000	

Other Correncies	Date: 20/1/1994		
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.5500	1.8050	
Lebanese Licu	0.040750	0.041780	
Saudi Riyal	0.1877	0.1885	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3500	2.3650	
Qatari Riyal	0.1914	0.1923	
Egyptian Found	0.2050	0.2200	
Omani Kiyal	1.5000	1.8040	
UAE Dirham	0.1914	0.1983	
Greek Drachma	0.2735	0.3185	
Cyprict Pound	1.3325	1.3850	

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

1.3128,38 U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.7375/85 1.9474/84 1.4563/73 36.25/29 5.9107/57 1696.6/8.1 110.08/18 8.0411/11 7.4870/20 6.7580/30

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

\$1.4991/01 One sterling \$387.00/387.40 One ounce of gold

## Kuwait weighs budget curbs in face of drop in oil income

KUWAIT (R) - The Kuwait government, making a politically sensitive call for economic sacrifices, has said falling oil revenues had made budget reform an urgent task.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan appealed for the cooperation of the oppositiondominated parliament in restructuring state spending but acknowledged belt-tightening might not be popular.

"The recommendations and reform measures require making sacrifices on all levels for the time being." he said in a hard-hitting report published in newspapers.

"They are not easy to accept on the public level unless there is an honesty and openness with a future-oriented outlook and both the legislature and executive cooperate to en-sure it success." he pointed

Delaying the measures would only inflict further "harm to the living standards of citizens." he said.

Kuwaitis have long been used to a generous welfare state with free or minimal-cost public services built on oil revenues which account for 90 per cent of state income.

Health and education are free and housing is subsidised for Kuwaitis. Gasoline is cheaper than bottled water.

the year ahead.

become urgent to start a structural reform operation to deal with the general budget deficit instantly and without delay," he said in a report sent

reserves. Payments to Gulf war allies

But oil prices are currently around a third below their levels of a year ago and Sheikh Rodhan said he was not opti-

mistic that prices or revenues could recover significantly in "Since the reserves have reached a level at which it is not possible to liquidate more of them without financial and economic losses, the need has

to parliament. He gave no figure for the

Iraqi occupation in 1991 and have helped repair war damage have at least halved reserves once estimated at around \$1(X)

who helped free Kuwait from

Sheikh Rodhan listed the following proposals to trim a 1993/94 deficit projected at about 1.223 billion dinars (\$4.0 billion).

 Studying state employment regulations to secure cuts in the government wage bill -1.16 billion dinars (\$3.89 billion) in 1993/94 - "without affecting salaries"

 Encouraging employment of Kuwait nationals by the private sector, where nine out of 10 workers are expatriates Identifying unnecessary

spending allocations that can be shrunk without affecting the level of services Reveiwing direct and indirect subsidies

 Increasing non-oil revenue by imposing fees on general services in such a way that would reduce their use

 Creating opportunities for foreign investments.

- Studying regulations governing the relation between the private and public sector related to employment and taxa-

- He said Kuwait's 1993/94 budget deficit stood at 820 million dinars (\$2.75 billion) at the end of calendar 1993, half way through the fiscal year, or 67 per cent of the 1.223 billion dinar (\$4.0 billion) budget projected in the original budget.

Meanwhile, borrowers have repaid 109 million dinars (\$365 million) under a programme to settle Kuwait's \$19 billion bad debt mountain, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) has reported.

"The governor of the central bank, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, said the number of customers who have paid in cash according to law 40 for 1993 on the bad debts has reached 1,820 out of 9,500 customers," the agency re-

"Sheikh Salem told KUNA that the amount paid until now reached 109 million dinars out of 332 million dinars (\$1.11

billion) owed," the agency The report is the first official word on the progress of the 12-year programme, aimed at ending a problem that has cast a shadow of insolvency over the banking system and blight-

The debts stem partly from the 1982 crash of a freewheeling informal bourse used by all sectors of society and partly from commercial losses aggravated by Iraq's 1991-91 occupation.

ed sections of the economy for

Economists say the successful operation of the programme would boost a banking aystem stagnant because of the effect of the bad debts and worries about Iraq and a fall in population.

A law setting repayment terms was passed by the opposition-dominated national

assembly on Aug. 31 after months of wrangling and took effect on Sept. 6.

Borrowers have two main options --- early or "cash" settlement, which offers generous write-offs of up to 75 per cent followed by repayment of balance by Sept. 6, 1995, or rescheduling, which is repayment of all the debt over 12 years from April 1, 1994.

Some debtors, believed to include some of the biggest borrowers whose obligations stem from the 1982 stock market crash, have been pressing the government to soften the terms of the law.

They say it is difficult for them to qualify for early settlement and add a large sale of assets like shares and property in Kuwait to fund repayments could trigger a collapse in

Analysts say some debtors might be tempted to delay repayment in hopes of eventual forgiveness.

ported.

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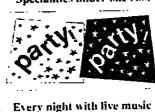
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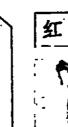
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McCartney -

confirms Beatles return to studio

NEW YORK (AP) - The three remaining Beatles are

heading into the recording sta-

dio for the closest thing they

can manage to a reunion. "Un-

fortunately, the world's press

has kind of blown it up like

we've trying to better the Bea-

tles, which we're certainly not trying to do." Paul McCartney

said Wednesday after induct-

ing his late songwriting part-

ner. John Lennon, into tise

rock and roll hall of fame.

Standing next to Lennon's

widow. Yoko Ono, and their son. Sean. McCartney said he.

Ringo Star and George Harth:

son will record some new somes for old time's sake. Just please, give the three of them a

chance." Ono urged. The reunion, part of a television

documentary on the band. was

first reported last week in the

New Yorker magazine. "We

said we'd try and do a little

incidental music for it."
McCartney said. The Beatles

spoke up in 1970, after bringing British rock 'n' roll to

America and becoming one of the most popular bands of all

time. Talk of a reunion went

on for years afterward. Lennon

DHAKA (AFP) — A 33-year-

old jilted business lady from

the United Arab Emirates has

said she does not want her

money back from her Bang-

ladeshi lover, but does want

justice done, a newspaper re-

ported Friday. I don't want

my money back, but I want

exemplary justice and assur-

ances that no other foreign

woman can be cheated like

this. Nazma Mohammad.

owner of a large Dubai-based

construction company. was

quoted as saying by mass cir-

culation daily Ittefaq newspaper Friday. She said she mel Zahidul Islam Chowdhury of

southeastern Bangladeshi dis-

trict of Chittagong during a trip

three years ago and fell in love

with him over the years as the

two got involved in business.

Ms. Mohammad claimed she

was murdered in 1980.

Jilted woman

wants juștice

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G

# Prime Minister Morihiro

Hosokawa sought a last-ditch compromise to save anticorruption bills and his politicat future Friday as his fragile coalition government lost a erucial vote in parliament.

The tour bills, which passed the lower house of parliament in November, were killed by a 130-118 vote in the upper house, doomed by 17 defections from the Social Democratic Party, the biggest force in the five-month-old coalition.

The result could not only erode Mr. Hosokawa's credibility but also delay muchawaited economic stimulus me-

asures and budget debate. It would mar his diplomatic chores as well, including a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in mid-February,

Mr. Hosokawa denied he would resign or dissolve parhament for general elections, as he has hinted previously.

"I don't think about such things," said the premier, who has staked his political future on political reform as the death knell for a series of corruption scandals. "I take it upon myself to do my atmost to have the bills passed in the remain-

"Mr. Hosokawa said he would work out compromise hills with the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which lost its 38-year grip on power in elections in July. within the nine days left in the

current session of parliament. "I can say there is greater room for compromise after such an outcome," he told a press confernece.

The premier also said there was no change in his intention of "taking measures as promptly as possible in a way not to cause anxiety to the economic situation."

But a Bank of Japan official was worried about the volatile stock market. "I am praying the market will not over-

The government still can put the bills to a special committee comprising 20 members from both houses for amendment although this would require a mosthirds majority for approv-

up a range of sites that, it

suspects, are being used to

manufacture a nuclear bomb.

threat to demand possible

U.N. sanctions against Pyon-

gyang, have already held two

rounds of talks with North

The spokesman said: "The

issue of routine and ad-hoc

inspection under the safe-

guards agreement shall be re-

solved smoothly if the third

round of the DPRK-U.S. talks

are held and an agreement is

reached on the package solu-

The DPRK refers to North

Korea's official title, the

Democratic People's Republic

Pyongyang began refusing to allow IAEA inspections' last

February, and followed this up

a month later, with a threat.

later suspended, to quit the

talks with the United States on

Jan. 5, it had signalled a softer

position, giving an agreement

The IAEA wants to look at

seven nuclear sites provided

for under the NPT, as well as

two undeclared nuclear sites at

in principle to such visits.

of Korea.

NPTC.

U.S. officials, backed by a

al. The amended bills can be passed by both houses by a simple majority.

members also feared the bills.

which would also partly intro-

duce proportional representa-

tion, would diminish their

The package has been also

criticised for "loopholes" as it

bans individual politicians

from receiving corporate dona-

tions but allows parties and

organisations to accept them.

The government had already

agreed to modify its package

by increasing the number of

lower-house members elected

under the single-seat consti-

tuency system from 250 seats

The remaining 226 seats in

the new 500-member lower

house are supposed to be

chosen under a new prop-

ortional representation system.

accepted other LDP demands

to cut public funding of politic-

Ireland,

to break

N. Irish

about peace.

up violence.

U.K. seek

deadlock

BELFAST (R) - Britain

dangled the carrot of key con-

cessions to Irish Republicans

to entice them into backing an

Anglo-Irish peace plan, while Ireland challenge them to stop

stalling if they were serious

Secretary of State for North-

ern Ireland Sir Patrick

Mayhew made Britain's most

generous overture yet to Sinn

Fein, the IRA's political wing,

promising in a speech Thurs-

day to give "clarification" of the initiative if the IRA gave

Irish Prime Minister Albert

Reynolds, in a speech deli-

vered almost simulatenously.

also sought to break the stale-

mate with a blunt message to

the IRA that its 25-year armed struggle against British rule in

the province was unjustifiable.

London that "clarification" could be part of the "explora-

tory dialogue" it has promised

three months of a permanent

could be appropriate, not of

the joint declaration but of the

processes we described in

November." Sir Patrick said at

In November, he had said

Sinn Fein could join negotia-

tions for the first time, discuss

with Britain the consequences

of an end to violence and map

out its future role alongside the

constitutional parties in the

province within three months

a dinner in London.

"That is where clarification

Sir Patrick told at a dinner in

The coalition had also

ground in next elections.

LDP President Yohei Kono said that his party, still the higgest force in parliament. which had been angered over the coalition's unilateral tactics, might cooperate in revising the bills - but to its advan-

"There is the need for both sides to work hard for a consensus in a sincere manner." Mr. Kono said, "We have to see how the ruling camp

changes its attitude." Since a stocks-for-favours scandal felled the government of Noboru Takeshita in 1989. two LDP prime ministers failed to pass their own versions of anti-corruption legisla-

Mr. Hosokawa's package would eliminate multiple-seat constituencies which its supporters say have fostered excessive intra-mural competition prone to the influence of

to inspect the seven sites but

would deal with the two unde-

Korea's decision to harden its

position would be viewed as

blackmail and set the stage for

with the hard line, it will be on

course for a showdown with

the IAEA as well as the United

States," a Western specialist

The U.S. approach mixes an

offer of cooperation if North

Korea renounces any nuclear

military ambition with the

threat of international sanc-

But the approach has so far

yielded such meagre benefits that other renegade countries

could be encouraged by North

Korea's approach to push

ahead with a military nuclear

The sudden hardening of

Pyongyang's position seems to

leave very little time to resolve

The IAEA says that it re-

quires a satisfactory response

from Pyongyang before being

able to send a mission to North

Korea in time to file a report

for the agency's board of gov-

ernors, who next meet in Vien-

alogue for a fair political solu-

tion to the conflict keep to the

The rebels, however, regret-

not all been met because the

federal army continues to

violate the ceasefire.

na on Feb. 21.

programme, a source said.

tions if it refuses.

'If North Korea persists

Diplomats said that North

clared sites as a later issue.

al parties from the earlier money, including vote-buying. proposal of 41.4 billion yen Its critics, however, say (\$373 million) a year to 30.9 single-seat systems would billion yen a year.

### Hosokawa loses vote on reforms California quake victims swamp officials with aid requests further intensify what they called "money-powered politics." The LDP and some Socialist

LOS ANGELES (R) — Earthquake victims swamped federal disaster centres with pleas for emergency aid as authorities worked desperately to find shelter for thousands driven from their homes.

With rainstorms on the way and the ground still heaving with aftershocks, officials said they were doing everything they could to avoid further loss of life in the aftermath of

region's "new homeless" about half of them children vacant lots.

teriorating health conditions. authorities said their top prior-ity is to find them housing before the arrival of rain, forecast for Saturday night.

Parks and Recreation.

further havoc with the region's crumbled freeway system and with some of the 4,000 homes and businesses damaged or destroyed when the magnitude-6.6 quake struck at the heart of the sprawling San

As Los Angeles struggled to recover from the costliest quake in U.S. history, life was anything but normal.

Cars lined up for miles in nightmarish traffic jams as motorists detoured around wrecked sections of the area's vast freeway system. Com-mutes that normally take 45 minutes took up to four hours.

Not even Hollywood was spared as celebrities such as Élizabeth Taylor, Carroll O'Connor and Jerry Van Dyke suffered damage to homes and

emergency aid at 11 centres that were opening in the hardest-hit sections of southern California. The centres offered one-stop assistance for low-interest loans, emergency housing grants and counsell-

Special phone lines set up by the federal emergency management agency were flooded with calls for help.

President Bill Clinton, who

Quake victims lined up

Thursday to begin applying for

visited some damaged areas Wednesday, promised massive aid and pledged to stand by southern Californians in their time of need.

Aware of the criticism of former President George Bush over the handling of aid after hurricane Andrew hit Florida. in 1992, Mr. Clinton promised a business-like federal relief

Governor Pete Wilson, in a mated losses could range from \$15 billion to \$30 billion, putting the Northridge earthquake on par with hurricane Andrew,

the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. For a few, however, the

A Las Vegas man who came to Los Angeles to sell Martin "Thank God I survived

sales were booming.
As strong aftershocks rum-

building, weakened by the quake and the swarm of aftershocks, was on the brink of collapse and traffic was rerouted around the area in west

coarded-up shopping malls.

homeless or were too frightened to enter their houses spent a third night sleeping

Temperatures dropped to the mid-40sF (five-eight Celsius) Wednesday, raising concerns that the cold, damp weather could contribute to respiratory ailments among the old and very young.

massive power failure unless

## saleswoman wins court case

LIVERPOOL, England (R) A former sales manager who was told she was too pretty for her job and should model her looks on Margaret Thatcher won a sex discrimination claim against her employers. Tracev Gatehouse, 24. quit her £9.500 (\$14.170) a year job with a company that supplied gaming machines to public houses after her boss complained her attractive image might make her clients' wives jealous. An industrial tribunal in the northwestern port city of Liverpool ruled that the remarks by her superior. Peter Barrett. were gratuitously and offensively put" and upheld her claim of sex discrimination against the company. "He would not have spoken to a man as he spoke to her." the three-member trihunal said. "Our conclusion was that on the completion of her training she was spoken to as if she was a pretty young thing who had to take care to please." Ms. Gatehouse had told the tribunal she was advised to tie back her long fair hair, develop a few spots and as she was working in a "man's world," to portray a more manly image like former Prime Minister Margaret Thatches. Mr. Barrett told the tribunal his remarks were intended to he friendly advice as the company was keen on presenting a professional image. The tri-

### Former priest faces 151 sexual assault charges

bunal will set compensation at

a later date if the two parties

mer Australian Catholic priest was charged with 151 offences relating to sexual assaults against 14 boys between 1969 and 1982. Gerald Ridsdale. 59. was charged in the Melbourne magistrate's court with three counts of committing sodomy and two of attempted sodomy of boys between the ages of 10 and 16. He also faced 54 charges of gross indecency and 92 charges of indecently assaulting the boys. Magistrate Linda Dessau released Mr.

Monday's quake.

The sheriff's department Thursday said the death toll had risen to 51, based on the latest report from the coroner's office. The toll from the earthquake also includes 4.800 injured and up to \$30 billion in

More than 20,000 of the shivered through another cold. damp night in makeshift tent cities erected in parks and

Already worried about de-

"We need to get these peo-ple out of the parks," said Jackie Tatum, general mana-ger of the city's Department of

Storms could also wreak Fernando Valley.

Tens of thousands were still

without power or water. With most major supermarkets boarded up, residents scavenged for food and other essentials.

Residents flooded consumer hotlines with reports of price gouging, complaining of mere chants charging as much as \$65 for pizza and \$10 for a gallon (3.7 litres) of milk. "Earthquake victims deserve a break. not a shakedown," said Los

businesses.

### Government shuts down in U Hundreds of thousands of power customers in Pennsylvania. Maryland and New Jersey

WASHINGTON (R) - Icy weather disrupted life across much of the eastern United States Thursday, creating a power emergency and forcing the federal government to take a day off.

of an end to IRA violence. His carefully worded offer stopped short of Sinn Fein's demand for full clarification of key aspects as precondition of deciding whether or not to accept the plan. Sinn Fein says it could take another two months or more to

make a decision, but Reynolds said that was not good enough, The Irish prime minister said the two governments would

make no attempt to persuade the reluctant Protestant majority in Northern Ireland to accept Sinn Fein's goal of union with the Irish Republic.

have caused 93 deaths.

the next few days and should

Forecasters said temperaures should gradually go up in

energy use was reduced.

The U.S. capitol building was closed to the public and White House tours were can-

.S. freeze

celled. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly declared a state of emergency, requiring all nonessential businesses and all schools to close. President Bill Clinton can-

celled a speech at Georgetown University to mark the first anniversary of his inauguration and his wife Hillary postponed a trip to Philadelphia.

### were cut off for brief periods Wednesday as utilities instituted "rolling blackouts" to cope with unexpected demand

States of emergency were declared in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia, seat of the government, and winter freezes even hurt some areas in the south, but relief was expected by the weekend.

Record low temperatures, deep snowfalls and knifing winds in some states this week

he above freezing by early next week, but another cold wave was possible by next week end.

triggered by the severe cold. Residential customers were asked to turn down thermostats and turn off lights and

appliances whenever possible. "I want to compliment the people of... New Jersey, the businesses and the county and local governments," Governor Christie Whitman said, "They really did respond to the

emergency declaration and it did have a noticeable impact on power demands." In Washington federal gov-

ernment offices were closed and 360,000 federal employees stayed home at the request of local utilities, which feared a

Roads and sidewalks, already covered with ice, were given an overnight dusting of snow and hospitals reported a rash of injuries to people who had slipped and fallen.

Power authorities said energy conservation was crucial to preventing new power black-

## Fiske to probe Clinton Whitewater deal

Robert Fiske was named Thursday to probe President Bill Clinton's Arkansas land

Attorney General Janet Reno announced his selection as independent counsel, Mr. Fiske said he would conduct a broad probe - including whether the July 1993 suicide of White House aide and Clinton friend Vincent Foster had any connection to the so-called

Whitewater case. Mr. Fiske's appointment came two days after the release of the report of a similar independent probe into the Irancontra affair, which dogged presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush and caused the worst White House scandal

since Watergate drove Richard Nixon from office in 1974. President and Mrs. Clinton have denied wrongdoing in the complicated Arkansas business

transactions and, at this point,

will be Mr. Fiske's job to get to the bottom of the politically touchy case.

The investigation centres on whether the failed Madison Guaranty Savings Loan in Arkansas improperly funneled money into Mr. Clinton's 1984 re-election campaign for gov-ernor, and on the Clintons' relationship with businessman James McDougal.

Mr. McDougal owned Madison and was the Clintons' partner in Whitewater Development Corp., a money-losing real estate venture. Mrs. Clinton and her law firm represented Madison.

point.

Clintons under oath at some would take place at the White House or before the grand jury

pected he would question the

Mr. Fiske said that he ex-

Asked if the questioning

President Clinton Thursday night lamented the tough scrubut rewarding.

with an appearance on CNN's Larry King Live, Mr. Clinton said he was working to overcome frustrations of the presidency and dealt with subjects ranging from the death of his mother to the qualities of his attorney general. Janet Reno. He said she had come onto the Washington scene "hot as a

He pledged to work with Mr. Fiske, the special counsel appointed earlier in the day. Whatever he wants to do. Mr. Clinton said. "I just want to so my job. I don't want to be distracted by this any more. .. I didn't do anything wrong "

inman's decision to withdraw as his nominee for secretary of defence. Mr. Clinton said he was concerned about the whole nomination process.



Haiguhi Alaverdyan of Hollyood, California, walks over rubble after taking some of her belongings from her Hollywood Boulevard appartment building which was destroyed in the Northridge earthquake (AFP photo)

quake was just another business opportunity.

Luther King Day T-shirts Monday found few takers. So he printed different shirts read-California's 6.6 quake," and

bled through Los Angeles, the damage toll continued to

An evacuated 10-story office

Los Angeles, police said. Armed guards, enlisted to

Residents who were left

had given a large sum of money to Mr. Chowdhury for revent looting, stood watch at

business purposes and that he had promised to marry her. But now both he and his family will not accept a "woman from. Dubai," she told the daily.

# Too pretty

# are unable to agree on a sunt.

MELBOURNE (R) - A for-Ridsdale on bail until a committal hearing on March 3.

### with IAEA, U.S. on nuclear sites Ministry spokesman warned Yongbyon, where it suspects Korea Friday rejected the latest demands by the world's there was no prospect that that liquid and solid nuclear Pyongyang would meet the waste is being stored. IAEA spokesman David nuclear watchdog to make in-IAEA demand until it had spections of its suspected reached a separate deal with Kyd said this week that the the United States. agency wanted, in a first step.

N. Korea on course for showdown

bomb-making sites, setting what diplomats said was the Washington is leading an international campaign to pressure the Stalinist state to open

stage for a showdown. The official North Korean news agency, KCNA, said Pyongyang had balked at demands by the International Atomic Energy Agency (iAEA) to make routine or ad-ho, inspections of seven facilitieder the nuclearnon-proliferation treaty

"What we decided to allow is not routine or ad hoc inspection...but inspection merely for the continuity of safeguards conforming to our special position," KNCA said, quoting a North Korean Foreign Minis-

try spokesman. The report did not spell out the "safeguards." According to an IAEA spokesman in Vienna, Pyongvang and the IAEA disagree

mainly over the definition of the modalities of inspection. 'North Korea has agreed to allow IAEA inspectors verify the maintenance of its equipment and to carry out certain we want to go further and carry

out more rigorous controls such as verifying seals and "We know that the inspec-

tion will not be total and com-

The North Korean Foreign

plete." he added.

Mexico rebels reject peace talks SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AFP) - The Zapatista rebels said they would not engage in peace talks with the government as

long as the army continued to

break the ceasefire in Chapas In two statements to be published Friday in the Tiempo daily, the guerrillas also said they lacked formal notification of the government's amnesty offer to those who took part in the New Year's Day indige-

nous uprising in the southern State.
The mostly indigenous Zapatista National Liberation Army overran San Crisiobal De Las Casas and several other

towns and cities in this im-

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) -

The campaign for South Afri-

ca's first all-race election got

into full swing this week, with

President F.W. De Klerk and

ANC leader Nelson Mandela

firing broadsides at each other

in a series of public appear-

he donning kid gloves to hand-

le the white far right, generally

seen as the major threat to the

election now little more than

The first salvo came from

Mr. Mandela, who is expected

to become the next president

of South Africa if the landslide

predicted for his African

National Congress in the April

He accused Mr. De Klerk at

a function for foreign corres-

pondents Tuesday of orches-

trating violence in black

townships in hopes that it

would give the president's

National Party (NP) an edge at

The N.P strategy, he said, is

to use violence to intimidate

black voters and force them to

stay away from polling sta-

tions, thus boosting its own

chances of victory.

three months away.

27 vote materialises.

the polls.

But both men appeared to

tions and a stop to government Camacho said Thursday in

approved a special tax exemp-

Chiapas towns and cities.

Zapatistas, but has so far been unable to contact the rebels. The Zapatistas, in their

poverished corner of Mexico to demand better living condi-

Mexico City that federal troops sent to Chiapas to quell the rebellion would be withdrawn soon from urban areas, as President Carlos Salinas

tion for the people of 22 As the uprising died down by mid-January, Mr. Camacho was sent to Chrapas to set up peace negotiations with the

timetable and procedures announced publicly by Camacho. ted that "conditions for the start of the dialogue... have

statements, asked that the "di-

Mr. De. Clerk is convinced

he has majority support among

South Africa's other popula-

tion groups -- whites, mixed-

race "coloureds" and Indians

- and "believes that if the

violence continues until April

27 ... he might even continue

to cling to power." Mr. Man-

The ANC is a threat to the

election. Mr. De Klerk

riposted Thursday in the farm-

ing town of Potchefstroom, de-

scribing the mainstream black

movement as a "dangerous

they practise intimidation and

aggression." he told the mainly

white student body of Potchef-

stroom University. "Their sup-

porters intimidate everyone

who doesn't agree with them."

power, dark days he ahead."

he warned in the mining town

of Fochsville, the first stop of a

three-day campaign swing

On Friday, he told AFP in

Klerksdorp that he was having

trouble campaigning in black

townships because of ANC

through western Transvaal.

"If the ANC gets too much

"They preach tolerance.

Despite the Zapatistas claims the Mexican government's unilateral ceasefire announced on Jan. 12 appeared to be holding. though Chiapas remained

tense as residents feared renewed fighting between the army and the rebels, who have

taken to the hills. S. African election campaign gets into full swing "When I go into a black township I am up against a real threat of violence," he said.

We constantly meet intimidation in the form of incidents of "How can you vote for people who threaten to burn your house and assault you if you don't do what they say?" he asked black commuters at a

taxi rank near Klerksdorp.

ANC supporters jeered and shouted "liar." In contrast to their mutual attacks, both men have been more moderate when speaking of the far right, organised into a Freedom Alliance of black

and white right-wing groups. The ANC, Mr. Mandela said Friday, takes the alliance's demands for greater federal guarantees in the new constitution very seriously and will address them "to the best of our abilities."

"In the great effort to create

a new society and a new na-tion, we dare not fail." he

warned. "History and the

world will judge us very harsh-

ly if we do not do what is just

and correct - we will not have

a second chance.

In his tour of western Transvaal, a major power base for white extremists, Mr. De Klerk said the white homeland they seek was impractical.

The "bitterness" between Afrikaners pains him deeply, Mr. De Klerk said, calling for unity ahead of the election and warning that the Africaners must drop their extremist stance if they want their "volk" (nation) to survive. "In South Africa, there are

million." he said. "If just cannot work. The Afrikaner volk can only survive if it can live in peace with all South Africans."

three million Afrikaners in a

total population of 32-

Two opinion surveys of voting intentions conducted this month give the ANC between 64 and 67 per cent of the vote. the NP 16 to 17 per cent and the parties that make up the Freedom Alliance between and nine and 13 per cent.

Mr. Mandela said Thursday

white right-wing radicals de-

manding self-rule posed a se-

rious threat to South Africa's

future, the South African Press

WASHINGTON (Agencies) - Former U.S. prosecutor

dealings in the 1980s, and said he planned to question Mr. Clinton and his wife Hillary under oath. At a news conference where

the matter does not appear to approach the level of those earlier major scandals. But it

in Little Rock, Arkansas, which has been hearing evidence, he said, "it is really premature to start discussing the form in which that will

tiny of presidential nominees and, reflecting on his first year in office, said it had been tough · Marking that anniversary

firecracker.

Citing retired Adm. Bobby

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## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Battlefield survivors head for Lillehammer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) - Nine competitors from besieged Bosnia will take part in next month's Winter Olympics at Lillehammer in Norway. "We don't expect to win any medals but the important thing is to take part," Bosnia-Herzegovina Olympic Committee Executive Director Predag Medjeski said here Friday. Alpine and cross-country skiers and luge tobaggonists have been training here, in Slovenia and in Norway although two of the bobsleigh team were still trapped in the Sarajevo battlefield. "We hope they can get to Germany this week." Out Mejeski said. The German National Olympic Committee have been paying for training and accommodation for competitors from the city which 10 years ago put on one of the happiest games in

### Senna starts from zero

PARIS (AFP) - Brazilian Ayrton Senna will drive with the number zero during next season's Formula One world championship, world governing body FIA announced here Friday. Britain's Damon Hill takes the number two car, with number one, traditionally reserved for the world champion, missing because of the retirement of title holder Alain Prost of

### Indonesia bars Magic Johnson

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia's immigration director said Friday that former U.S. basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson will not be allowed to enter the country next month. but that the decision could be overruled by either the health or sports ministers. Johnson, who is scheduled to play in an exhibition game here, has the human immune-deficiency virus (HIV), the precursor to the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). "If he insists to visit, we will refuse him, Immigration Director General Roni Sikap Sinuraya told iournalists. "The law stipulates that the immigration officials are allowed to bar a person who suffers from insanity or contagious diseases to enter the country." Roni said an exception could be made by the health minister or the youth affairs and sports minister if one of them decided the benefits of the visit would outweigh the risks. The two ministers have not recommended the visit, he said.

### Sudanese team wins African Cup

KHARTOUM (R) - A! Merreikh of Sudan won the 1994 East and Central African Club Soccer Championship Thursday, beating Express of Uganda 2-1 in the final in Khartoum. Al-Merreikh, which last won the cup in 1986, went 1-0 up in the first half of Sudan's main stadium. It extended its lead to 2-0 early in the second half. Express pulled one goal back. This year the competition was dogged by crowd trouble with Sudanese fans stoning visiting players and attacking the referee during Al Merreikh's semi-final match with Simba of Tanzania. Simba withdrew from the competition in protest. Next year's championship will be played in Zanzibar.

### Petrenko win men's title

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) - Viktor Petrenko gained his third European men's title Thursday as he paced a Ukranian sweep of the top two positions at the European figure skating championships. Ukranian teammate Viacheslav Zagorodniuk was second ahead of Russian Alexei Urmanov third. Halfway through the ice dance competition, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean battled back into contention the best way they know how — will a sultry dance to a romantic beat. "We were in love for two minutes while we danced," said Torvill." And are still good friends." Petrenko won European titles in 1990 and 1991 as a member of the Soviet Union team. He took the 1992 Olympic title for the unified team and captured the world crown that year representing the Commonwealth of Independent States. He returned to amateur competition after being reinstated following a year as a professional. "The time I spent there was good," Petrenko said. "I learned how to perform in front of people." He wasn't in top form. He tried seven triple jumps and two-footed a pair. But two triple axels combinations helped him to get from 5.5 to 5.8 for technical merit.

### **GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

, Answers to weekly bridge quiz

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as \$J4 \(\nabla Q8532 \) \(\hat{\text{CKJ64}}\) \$\frac{\text{\$\text{\$\delta}Q\$}}{\text{\$\text{\$\delta}Q\$}}\) Partner opens the bidding with one aVoid ♥KQ85 ♦AK76 aQJ854 no trump. What do you respond?

forced heart rebid. If you don't, you

can show invitational values by first

responding two chibs, Stayman. If partner rebids two diamonds, show

your hearts; if partner bids hearts, raise to three hearts; and if partner

has a spade suit, rebid two no

choose that bid, a three-diamond

response from partner or preemp

mind if the opponents get into the

act because our values are better

suited to defense than offense.

–Neither vulnerable, as South

What is your opening bid?

A.—A one-club opening bid works
fine if partner responds in one of
the red sults. The problem arises

with two no trump over partner's when partner's response is one spade or one no trump. Following the Principle of Preparedness, we would opt for an opening bid of one diamond, allowing us to rebid two clubs if partner does not raise or bid

Q-2—Neither vulnerable, as South # hold: \*\* ONDORSHIE OPENS OF A VAKSS OVOID #AQ98762

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A.—You have a good hand, but don't get carried sway. Unless partner can art freely, you are going nowhere. A one-spade overcall is all your hand, warrants for the choose that bid, a three-diamond your hand warrants for the

response from partner or preemp-tive tactics by the opponents, among other things that might hap-pen, could result in your losing the heart suit. Our choice would be one Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

\$\footnote{\text{Y}} \text{The bidding has proceeded:} \text{North East South West} \text{I \text{V}} \text{DbY} \text{The bidding has proceeded:} \text{North East South West} \text{I \text{V}} \text{DbY} \text{The bidding has proceeded:} \text{North West} \text{I \text{V}} \text{DbY} \text{The bidding has proceeded:} \text{North West} \text{The bidding has proceeded:} \text{The bidding has

Q.6-Both vulnerable, as South you hold: •7 ♥KQ83 ♦97653 •985 A.—It's simply a matter of how Partner opens the bidding with one many hearts to hid. Had the hand not been balanced we would have favored four hearts. Our length in spade. What action do you take? A .- If we could be sure that, over s hearts detracts from partner's defensive capability, so we feel partner might expect intro-defense if we simply raiss to two hearts. That swings the decision to a preemptive lump to three hearts, which is just about right.

Q-4-North-South vulnerable, as

## **Under-19** basketball tournament to resume

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It seems the 1993 basketball season is not over

yet! The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) recently decided to go ahead with the final round of the under-19 tournament. Therefore, fans will get to see their favourite teams clash once again as titleholders Al Ahli face Al Orthodoxi, while Al Abbasi take on Al Jazireh Saturday at the sports

After the JBF's decision to cancel the U-22 tournament. the U-19 competition is the last chance for Al Orthodoxi to clinch once of the season's trophies.

Al Ahli will seek to retain their title and add another trophy after their latest win over Al Orthodoxi in the first division championship. Al Jazireh on the other hand

seem eager to add the U-19

title to the U-14, U-16 and

women's titles they secured in Seven teams had originally taken part in the competition which began Oct. 10. Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxi, Al Juzireh and

Al Abbasi made it to the

second round. Al Hussein, Al Mafraq and Abu Nusair finished in 5-7 places. Al Jalil, Homentmen. and Al Watani did not compete this season,

The final round of the competition was indefinitely postponed following the resump-

tion of the first division competition after the national team's participation in the Asian Championship.

Al Jazireh led the standings after the first round following the JBF's decision to award them the win against Al Orthodoxi after the latter pulled out of the match, with Al Jazirch leading 25-20.

Al Jazireh beat Al Mafraq 142-21, AI Hussein 133-39 and Abu Nusair 170-35.

Al Ahli also scored impressive wins against most teams. However, they came in second after missing their match against Al Hussein. Al Ahli defeated Al Jazireh

73-57 and Al Orthodoxi 79-46. They also scored big wins over Al Abbasi 106-40, Abu Nusair 136-21 and Al Mafraq 164-19. Al Orthodoxi thus finished third with two losses to Al Ahli and Al Jazireh. They scored convincing wins of their own defeating Al Hussein 75-17. Abu Nusair 124-23 and Al Mafraq 115-28.

Al Abbasi seemed to be the surprise of the tournament. qualifying to the second round after a 93-51 upset over favourites A! Hussein. They managed to score satisfactory results against top teams. losing 65-41 to Al Jazireh and 67-44 to Al Orthodoxi. Al Abbasi beat Al Mafraq

84-20 and Abu Nusair 106-26. The tournament is set to be completed Jan. 29, giving fans. players and officials a brief break before the JBF issues the 1994 calendar of events.

### Standings after 1st round

	•	**	•	J.	ŊA.	16
☆ Jazireh	6	5	1	569	209	11
☆ Ahli	6	5	1	558	185	10**
→ Orthodoxi	6	4	2	427	183	9**
☆ Abbassi	6	3	3	408	335	9
Hussein	6	3	3	237	370	9
Mafraq	6	1	5	164	601	7
Abu Nusair	6	_	6	176	656	6

☆ Qualified to second round Ahli, Orthodoxi lost one point each due to withdrawals against Hussein and Jazireh.

## Kerrigan lands difficult jumps in practice

STONEHAM, Mass. (AP) -Nancy Kerrigan donned a white figure skating costume and completed her most difficult jumps Thursday on her road to recovery from the Jan. 6 clubbing of her right knee.

"Her hardest jump is the double-axel and she landed that today and she did it beautifully," said Kerrigan's father, Dan Kerrigan, "Her knee is a little stiff, but she's doing great."

For a second day, Kerrigan's entourage had no comment about the arrest of rival Tonya Harding's ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, in connection with the attack that kept her out of the national championships. "We're only concerned ab-out Nancy," Dan Kerrigan

Shawn Eckardt, Harding's bodyguard, who has been charged in the assault, said in an interview published Thursday that Harding was involved in the purported scheme. Harding, through an attorney,

denied the allegation.

Asked if she was looking forward to appearing with Harding in the Olympics, Kerrigan responded: "I'm looking forward to going to the Olympics, yeah.

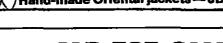
Records have been released showing phone calls were made to Kerrigan's practice rink, the Tony Kent Arena in South Dennis, from Harding's house in Oregon.

Eckardt told a sheriff's deputy that Harding made the calls so the alleged hit man, Shane Minoaka Stant, could attack Kerrigan before she left for the national championships in Detroit. Stant allegedly stalked Kerrigan in Massachusetts but didn't get the chance to carry out the assault until Jan. 6 in Detroit.

Kerrigan was smashed on the right leg because it was her landing leg for jumps. Eckardt

Kerrigan was scheduled to fly to Los Angeles Friday to film a television commercial

### We advise you to visit Al Dalal Establishment inside the Forte Grand Hotel \* For information, the price of an embroidered cushion is JD 12 Hand-made Oriental jackets — JD105



### CAR FOR SALE

1992 Nissan Sunny, duty unpaid, full options, diplomatic plate, JD 5,500. Please call 612538

### DRIVER SEEKS JOB

Jordanian, married, seeks job. Has a driving licence (fourth edition). Call 820253

### AUSTRALIAN OPEN

## Graf, Lendl advance to round of 16

(AP) — Three-time champion Steffi Graf overwhelmed fellow German Barbara Rittner 6-2, 6-4 Friday to advance to the last 16 of the women's

singles at the Australian Open. Graf, the top seed in the enforced absence of defending champion Monica Seles, was twice interrupted by rain showers but used her lethal forehand to bludgeon her way to

Graf has been using weights to build up her strength while a new racket has given her added confidence and aggression at the net.

"I feel a lot better around the net now," she said. "I kind of know where the ball is going, so I feel more secure.' Graf, winner of the Australian Open in 1988 and 1990, now will face unseeded Sandrine Testud of France in the fourth round of the opening Grand Slam tournament of the

Testud, a 21-year-old from Lyon who had not previously made it past the second round of any Grand Slam, downed 13th-seeded Helena Sukova of the Czech republic 6-4, 6-3.

No. 3 seed Conchita Martinez of Spain and No. 16 Lindsay Davenport of the United States also scored clearcup victories.

Martinez blasted American Amy Frazier 6-3, 6-0 and Davenport Breezed by Elena Makarova of Russia 6-1, 6-2. Two-time men's champion Ivan Lendl continued his resurgence after a disappointing 1993, beating Dutchman Paul Haarhuis to advance to the fourth round, where he could

meet top seed Pete Sampras. Lendi, the No. 15 seed, downed Haarhuis 5-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 in a match played indoors after the centre court roof was closed.

Two big servers — Marc Rosset of Switzerland and Germany's Joern Rensenbrink had difficult with their ball toss while serving in damp and windy conditions early in the day and both were eliminated from

the men's singles. South African Grant Stafford made the round of 16 at a Grand Slam for the first time by downing 11th-seeded Rosset 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-1, while no.

Sweden caused Renzenbrink 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. "The ball was swirling around so much in the air that it was really difficult for guys

10 Magnus Gustafsson of

"I did my job, but he really didn't play well at all." Graf was in superb form against Rittner until she lost concentration late in the

who rely on a big serve," Gus-

tafsson said.

second set. "It's really difficult, Steffi is hitting the ball so hard," said

20-year-old Rittner.

"I had a game plan but it wasn't worth anything. She serves so hard there's nothing vou can do. The score just depends on how many mistakes she is making."

Rittner led 2-1 before a rain interruption, but said the delays made no difference to the

"It was the same for both players," she said.

Graf is seeking her 15th Grand Slam title, her fourth in a row and hoping to keep alive a streak of having won at least one slam event in each of the last seven years. Unseeded American Chan-

da Rubin, 17, advanced to the fourth round, where she will play Martinez, with a 6-3, 7-6 (7-1) win over Ausralian Kristine Radford.

"With the wind today I figured it would be better to get placement on my serve rather than worry about pace," Rubin

"It was a little rough, it was kind of an ugly match."

Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, seeded 14, completed a 6-2, 6-4 second-round win over Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan in a match that had been halted by rain Thursday evening.

The tournament is sponsored by Ford, played on synthetic rebound ace courts and continues through Jan. 30.

### Vogts criticises decision to scrap Hamburg game mined that a friendly would go

BONN (R) — Germany coach Berti Vogts Thursday criticised the decision to cancel a friendly soccer international against England in Hamburg because of fears of trouble from Neo-Nazis celebrating Adolf Hitler's birthday.

Representatives from the German Soccer Federation (DFB) and the English Foothall Association (F.A.) decided Wednesday to cancel plans to stage the match in Hamburg April 20 — the anniversary of Hitler's birthday - because of security

But the DFB, which has accused the Britsh press of whipping up fear about the date of the match, emphasised Thursday that it was deterahead against England on the same date. Munich or Cologne could be

possible venues, or the game could be moved to London's Wembley Stadium. But the DFB refused to comment about any venue until it had talked with English officials at the European championship draw in Mancehester. "That's all speculation. We

expect a match to take place but we won't say anything until we have talked to the city involved and with the English F.A.," DFB spokesman Wolfgang Niersbach said.

DFB President Egidius Braun said there was no question of the soccer authorities bowing to threats of violence.

### REQUIRED

The U.S. Embassy in Amman would like to solicit proposals for packing and forwarding for household goods and official supplies.

To obtain the solicitation package, please call 820101, ext. 2026 on Monday, January 24th, 1994 between the hours 0900-1200.

### AL MASA'DEH STUDIO AND MINI LAB. WANTS

A young lady to work as photographer and photo printer in Wadi Mousa, Petra.

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### SEEK APARTMENT

Expatriate seeks 2 bedroom furnished apartment. Location: West Amman. Telephone essential. Call: 674627

Tel.: 634144



## Graf reveals painful truth

MELBOURNE (R) — Steffi Graf revealed Friday she played in almost continuous pain throughout 1993 and became depressed by her enforced visits to doctors and specialists.

World number one Graf still won three Grand Slam titles - Wimbledon and the French and U.S. opens -- but was often unable to play without pain-killing injections and doses of pills.

"Even during the cham-pionships, I did that almost the whole year through. It was very disturbing and depressing," said Graf, after reaching the last 16 of the Australian

'The two weeks between the FrenchOpen and Wimbledon were particularly bad. Making the decision to play at Wimbledon was very difficult but I made the right decision." Graf eventually had surgery

to remove bone fragments from her right foot in October, ending months of worry about her health. "One day I played without

injections because I thought I could do it and it wasn't possible," said Graf. "Every morning I just went to the doctor to get fit. Every time I won a tournament I couldn't believe it, really. I didn't want to do that any more.

"Last year was a great year on the one side because of all the successes, but on the other it was one I didn't want to have again, injury-wise."

Graf has since embarked on an extensive weight-training



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### TENDER INVITATION

UNESCO is providing urgent humanitarian assistance to Iraq to rehabilitate schools.

in order to carry out this task, the procurement of materials for building renovation and the local manufacturing of school furniture will be effected through international competitive bidding. Contracts for a total value of approximatively US\$300,000 are foreseen. Tender documents may be obtained from UNEDBAS, P.O. Box 2270, Tel: 606559, Fax: 682183, Amman, Jordan. The bid closing date is Monday 7

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Reference: 208/IRQ/11/BER/PEC

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# Iraq says it is trying to curb human right abuses

BAGHDA Agencies) — Iraq said of a sy there were cases of hum24: Ints abuses in the country but it was striving to curtail such rolations.

There are cases. But the state and its specialised organs are trying not to let such individual cases become a phe-nomenon," Iraq's Justice Minister Shabib Al Maliki told

Mr. Maliki said foreign reports of widescale violations in Iraq were exaggerated "in order to offer unrealistic justification" to continue with the U.N. trade sanctions on Iraq.

"What is being published outside Iraq is inflated. There are many guarantees in the constitution and laws that provide enough protection...," he

Mr. Maliki said human rights organisations should suffering of the Iraqi people caused by a stringent U.N. embargo imposed to punish Iraq for its 1990 invasion of

Kuwait.
"The embargo is the gravest violation of human rights," he

The minister said there had been cases of torture in Iraq but said they were perpetrated by individuals

"The law forbids any form of torture. There are cases in which the general prosecutor interfered and those practising such acts were punished," he

He said his ministry looked into "a few cases of citizens being subjected to torture (by security organs) ... and the perpetrators were punished." In January last year, the United States, Britain, France

Galloway

in trouble

for tribute

to Saddam

LONDON (Agencies) - The

British opposition Labour Par-

ty harshly rebuked maverick

Member of Parliament George

making flattering remarks ab-

out Iraqi President Saddam

Mr. Galloway, an outspoken

opponent of sanctions against

Iraq, outraged British politi-

cians from all parties by

appearing on Tuesday with

President Saddam and saving:

"Sir, allow me to salute your

courage, power and indefatiga-

Labour's whips, or par-

liamentary business managers.

read Mr. Galloway the riot act

over the incident, which under-

mined Labour's claim to the

moral high ground at a time of

sex and money scandals involv-

ing the ruling Conservative

"George Galloway has been

given a severe reprimand for

his behaviour and issued with a

final warning with regard to

future discipline. said Labour's chief whip. Derek

Prime Minister John Major

told parliament that Mr. Gallo-

way had been foolish. There

is frankly nothing to be said for

him (Saddam) and nothing

should be said for him by any

member of this House (of

A chastened Galloway

issued a statement apologising

fully and regretting the embar-

rassment to his party. But he

insisted that his remark was

meant as a tribute not to Presi-

ident Saddam but to the forti-

deep regret for any offence or

pain that may unwittingly have

been given to families of Brit-

ish victims of the Gulf war." he

His apology failed to satisfy the Gulf Support Group.

which helps Britons affected by

Araq's invasion of Kuwaii an

1990 and the subsequent affied

Stephen Brookes, a spokes-

man, said it was a disgrace that

Mr. Galloway had not res-

igned: "We're talking about a

country (Iraq) that is effective-

ly still at war with the rest of

Mr. Galloway was quoted by

the official Iraqi News Agency

as having said at the end of a

visit to the country that the

embargo was not having the

cil is now punishing President

Saddam Hussein. It is starving

infants and killing the old and

sick (people)." he was quoted

The (U.N.) Security Coun-

war against Baghdad.

the world.

desired effect.

"I begin by expressing my

tude of the Iraqi people.

Commons)." he said.

Party.

Hussein on Iraqi Television.

and Russia protested to Iraq over what they called widespread human arbitrary kill-

ings.
Mr. Maliki flatly denied western reports that the Iraqi government was persecuting Shiites in the south and Kurds in the north.

The issue of human rights in Iraq. in addition to compliance with U.N. weapons demands. are a stumbling block to easing or lifting U.N. sanctions.

Mr. Maliki said his ministry

had judicial control over security forces, said by the West to be responsible for widespread human rights violations.

Iraqi justice would investigate such cases if brought to its attention, he said but added he was only aware of "a few cases

Asked whether Iraq would be ready to welcome human rights monitors to ascertain no rights were abused, he said: "I personally do not think there is justification for that. The situation is good."

U.N. team arrives

Deputy head of the U.N. disarmament commission Charles Duelfer and a team of weapons inspectors arrived in Baghdad on Friday, as Iraq heard that sanctions would likely stay in place for the rest

Mr. Duelfer is to have talks with Iraqi officials to prepare for a visit there next month by Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N.Special Commission (UN-SCOM) disarming Iraq under Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

A team of 16 ballistic missile experts headed by Russian Nikita Smidovich is to spend 10 days visiting military sites, offi-

"Even today there are questions we are investigating also related to Scud missiles," said Mr. Smidovich, in Bahrian.

Mr. Ekeus, who is due in Iraq on Feb. 2. said Thursday that it would be the end of the year before he would be able to report that Iraq had complied with the weapons resolutions, easing the way to a lifting of the embargo imposed after the invasion of Kuwait.

"We haven't reached the confidence level yet. But there are clear signs of a new attitude from the Iraqi side," he said. He will discuss the long-term

monitoring of Iraq's weapons programme during his stay. Iraq accepted long-term international inspections of its weapons industry in November, hoping for an end to the U.N. oil embargo some time

this year. Mr. Duelfer said, "We are closer to lifting the embargo simply by the fact that Iraq has acknowledged 715 after three years," referring to the Secur-ity Council resolution on moni-

toring Iraqi armaments.
"That's a step forward, but we don't know how long the path is and it depends on our efforts and whether Iraq will continue to do what is required by the resolutions," he said.

The council agreed on Tuesday to extend the embargo for a further two months, with its President Karel Kovanda complaining that Baghdad had still not recognised the sovereignty of Kuwait.

Several members of the council believe Iraq should be given a six- to 12- month probationary period before any easing of the embargo.

## Advisors quit over Chernomyrdin shift

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin announced Friday a shift in economic priorities with increased support for troubled enterprises, sparking the departure in protest of two leading Western advisers.

The change was announced new centrist government following the departure of key economic reformers.

The shift, seen as a move away from radical reform policies that concentrated on bringing down inflation. sparked immediate criticism and the resignation of two leading Western advisors associated with the previous economic programme of monetary rigour.

American Jeffrey Sachs and Swede Anders Aslund said in a statement: "We can no longer help the Russian government. The aims and the policies announced by the prime minister are strongly opposed to our own concepts.

Pro-reform economist Grigory Yavlınsky described the new team as "typically Soviet, with no policy programme, and made up of personalities whom nobody elected." Mr. Yavlinsky offered on Wednesday to head the new government, but was snubbed.

Mr. Chernomyrdin announced the change of gear following a cabinet reshuffle which saw the departure of key reformers Yegor Gaidar and Boris Fyodorov.

The ltar-Tass news agency quoted the premier's spokesman; Valentin Sergeyev, as saying that the fact that many firms were currently stopped is "a major problem" the government must resolve.

"It is necessary to find ways to help these enterprises. which must resume work and so they can make their conhe quoted the premier as tell-

Russians are waiting to see if the new cabinet, formed in the wake of December parliamentary elections which saw significant gains for rightwingers and ultra-nationalists, will abandon free-market reforms.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Thursday that Russian President Boris Yeltsin was "a very tough guy" who would keep his grip on power despite the challenge from anti-reform

legislators. "I think he's got a strong grip because he's got a fouryear term and a constitution that gives him more power than I've got here," Mr. Clin-

"I think he's going to have a challenging time." Mr. Clinton said. "But he's a very tough guy. He believes in democracy and he's on the right side of history and I think he'll continue to listen and learn and work and I think he'll do bet-

Mr. Clinton visited Mr. correspondent in Moscow, Mr. Yeltsin in Moscow just last Zhirinovsky, whose party conweek and expressed strong trols 66 seats in Russian Parliasolidarity for him despite the ment, said that Russia lost rise of anti-reform ultrabillions as a result of its comnationalists and communists in mitment to the embargo on the Russia's December election.



air strikes in Bosnia

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Friday he would approve the use of air power in former Yugoslavia if so requested by his special representative there. Yasushi

Akashi. "Until now I have never received any request to use air power. If we receive a request I will certainly give the green light," Dr. Ghali told repor-

Dr. Ghali, who earlier this week asked Mr. Akashi to draw up a detailed plan for a possible military operation, said he would authorise the use of air power if the replacement of Canadian troops by a Dutch battalion was prevented from taking place in the Serbbesieged enclave of Srebreni-

"I hope that in the next few days we will have a very precise plan to use force in the case we won't be allowed to do the rotation in Srebrenica," he

The U.N. secretary-general has a mandate from the Security Council to approve the use of air power in former Yugos-

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) said last week it was prepared to use air strikes to open an air strip in northern Bosnia to aid flights and to protect Canadian troops in the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. The strikes would have to be autho-

MOSCOW (J.T.) - Vladimir

Zhirinovsky, head of the Rus-

sian Liberal Democrat Party,

has come out in strong support

for ending the embargo im-

posed on Libya, Iraq and

Yugoslavia and advocates that

Russia should continue to

maintain strong ties with the

In an interview with Al Ra'i

Arab World.

rised by the United Nations. "Before agreeing to use air power we have to agree on what our plan of action will be and that is what we are doing

now," Dr. Ghali said. Mr. Akashi, presented a ceasefire plan three days ago tion again.' and Dr. Ghali hopes it will be

agreed to by the Serbs.
"Personally I am in favour of the use of air power," said the secretary general.

NATO officials have said that Dr. Ghali must be the one

to order any air strikes. Serb gunners have surrounded Srebrenica and blocked Dutch peacekeepers from

moving in and replacing Cana-dian U.N. troops. Britain and France said Friday that the option of pulling United Nations troops out of Bosnia-Herzegovina, possibly as early as this spring, was being given serious considera-

"What we are talking about is whether the U.N. as a whole should continue to be in Bosnia and whether the time might come at some stage when it can no longer carry out its mandate," British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said.

That's not just a matter for the U.K. but also for France, Spain, Canada, and a number of other contingents," he told BBC radio, ruling out a withdrawal this winter, but saying it might take place in spring or

early summer. French foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said such a withdrawal was "a complex question which deserves serious consideration. stressing the potential consequences of such an operation on aid supplies.

While stressing that the current Geneva peace plan "remains on the table," he said,

would soon submit a bill to

parliament for ending such

Regarding the Middle East

peace process, Mr. Zhirinovs-

ky said he found no need for

Russia to co-sponsor, the

peace process with the United

States, since Moscow played

government. Mr. Zhirinovsky

said that the present govern-

ment's policies have proved

practically impotent, especially

in resolving complicated world

Accusing Russian Foreign

political issues.

Blaming Russia's current

no real role in this process.

Zhirinovsky opposes Iraq, Libya sanctions

"if diplomatic efforts fail, we will have to look at the situa-

"Nobody is talking about withdrawing U.N. troops in the middle of winter, for humanitarian reasons," he said, without being more specific about when a pullout might be ordered.

The option of a pullout has moved steadily up the political agenda as peace efforts led by mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg staggered for one session of talks to another, with little signs of

progress. Mr. Rifkind was speaking as British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was visiting British forces in central Bosnia to assess the needs for the 2,400 British troops there. Mr. Hurd had no plans to contact the Bosnian authorities during

his visit. The airlift sustaining Sarajevo resumed Friday despite snow that blanketed Bos-

By late afternoon, 12 of the 16 scheduled aircraft had landed on the airport's only runway that had covered by a heavy snow hours before.

The airlift into Sarajevo, which has been under Serb siege for 21 months, was suspended Thursday after a German and an American plane were hit by bullets.

To prevent similar shootings, Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic has agreed to allow U.N. monitors into Serb territory to see if his forces are doing the shooting, Bill Aikman, spokesman for U.N. force in Bosnia, said Friday.

Minister Andrei Kozirev of in-

competance, Mr. Zhirinovsky

said that the foreign minister

imposed foreign policy blindly

has been following American-

and therefore there was no

need for Moscow to be in-

volved with Washington in the

region.
"I am sure that Washing-

ton's policies in the Middle

East would end up in failure."

Denying that he had any

extremist demands. Mr. Zhir-

inovsky said that the Western

media had distorted his state-

## Israeli stabbed to death near Tel Aviv

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Three Palestinians stabbed their Israeli employer to death on Friday in an orchard south of Tel Aviv. police said. The armed wing of the

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Red Eagles, later said it carried out the attack. Police said Moshe Beker

60, was picking fruit in his orchard in Rishon-le-Tzion when the Palestinians, whom he had hired as day labourers. stabbed him in the neck and back. The suspects, from Khan

Yunes in the Gaza Strip, were later arrested near the main Erez crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip, A witness spotted the sus-

pects fleeing the scene in a car registered in the occupied territories, and alerted police. "We claim responsibility for

the death of an Israeli at Rishon-le-Tzion," PFLP activists wrote on walls in Rafah in the Gaza Strip. The death of Beker brought

to 197 the number of Israelis killed since the beginning of the intifada in December 1987, according to an AFP toil. Police Commissioner Rafi

Peled said three Palestinian suspects were arrested at a roadblock outside the Gaza Strip. "They were blood-stained and we already have the first confessions," Mr. Peled said But Palestinian reporters

said two suspects were detained and the third returned to his hometown, Rafah, in the south of the Gaza Strip, where he issued a responsibility The suspect who returned

home, who was not identified. reportedly fired his gun into the air, while supporters scribbled slogans on walls claiming Becker was killed by the Red

Israel sharply restricted the entrance of Palestinian labourers into Israel last March, after 15 Israelis were killed in a month. About 50,000 are allowed in now, less than half the previous figure. Palestinian labourers accuse employers of mistreating them and cutting their wages because competition for jobs is fierce.

Yehezkel Avraham, who owns the orchard next door. said he had warned Becker against employing Arabs. especially after the two went to police to complain a month ago that 50 or more were using the orchard to sleep at night, rather than returning to Gaza.

He said that there was no

fear of Russia's withdrawal

from the Middle East question,

creating a vacuum. The world

would eventually refuse to

accept a solo superpower

dominating world affairs, he

said, adding that all policies

aimed at imposing hegemony

on other nations, are bound to

le said he was totally posed to Russia's current

foreign policies, and that he

would be demanding a drastic

change of these policies in a manner that would safeguard

Russia's national interests.

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Box

**Baby arrives** with quake; just call him Rocky

Mugno's first baby arrived just after the earthquake. So the proud father hasn't had much time to pass out cigars: He been leading the broom and bucket cleanup brigade. At 7 pounds, 8 ounces (3.4 kilog. rammes). Joseph Anthony Mugno made his entrance 24 hours after Monday's 6.6 earthquake. Mugno sat back, awed by his wife. Laura. "She didn't have any medicine, no.: drugs. he recalled Wednes. day. "She was just like a frontierswoman, she came through it like a champ. At 4 a.m. Monday, four hours after rushing to Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital in Valencia. Laura Mungo's pains increased considerable. At 4:31 a.m., the building started pitching and the lights went out. The bed was moving, my wife was contracting across the room, the tables fell over, the monitors fell over, operating, lamps fell over." Mugifo said. A backup generator kept the fetal monitor beeping. Somebody handed Mugno a flashlight. Their nurse had never delivered a baby in the dark, or without a doctor. The Mugnos' obstetrician couldn't make it - his house in the San Fernando Valley was destroyed by the quake. "The hospital was rocking, but she knew it was her job to get that baby out." Mugno said. For 21/2 hours. they endured aftershocks and contractions. At 7:05 a.m., Laura. 31. gave birth to Joseph. I just held the flash-light. Mugno. 34 said. Later that morning. Mugno left to check on their house, weaving around oil spills, gas leaks, cracked roads and fallen debris. "Everything in the house was totalled. Every wall item is down, my TV entertainment centre was knocked over. The refrigerator slid across the room. The computer is gone. The dressers in the bedroom were knocked over," he said. His neighbours in suburban Saugus gathered to help him clean up. so Mugno began doling out brooms and buckets and hasn't stopped. Since mother and baby arrived at their temporary mobile home Tuesday, "he's been keeping us up at night. But he's a good-looking little boy. When he's bigger, we'll always have a story to tell." And little Joseph Anthony already has a nickname. Nurses call him Rocky.

### **Prince Charles** to oversee U.K. troop withdrawal

BERLIN (AFP) - The Prince of Wales is to attend a military parade in Berlin on May 27 marking the withdrawal of British troops from the city. which they have occupied with the other allied forces since 1945. The ceremony will coincide with the celebration of the birthday of his mother Queen Elizabeth II. the British embassy here said. On Sept. 10 those British soldiers still present will take part in a grand farewell ceremony in the city alongside U.S., French and German forces. French President Francois Mitterrand, British Prime Minister John Major and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore have been invited to that ceremony. The Russian army will mark its departure from the reunited German capital in a more modest ceremony on Aug. 3.

### Blind woman saved from fire by Moses the dog CONCORD. New Hampshire

(AP) - Moses led his blind master safely out of a house fire, surprising his owner because the dog isn't known for his brains. The thing is Moses is so dumb I can't even fathom what he did for me." Betty Kirson said. "He can sit pretty for a bone, but until today I thought that was about as far as his talents went." The fire broke out Wednesday morning. "I woke up to what Ithought was the phone ring-ing," said Kitson, 38, "I grabhed for it and at the same time there's Moses pressing his head and front paws up against me. The sound Ms. Kitson heard was a smoke alarm, "I think it would be one thing to be able to see a fire and get away from it. Ms. Kitson said. But being sightlessness and excaping a fire in your house is terrifying." Ms. Kitson drop-ped to all fours, grabbed Moses' collar, and followed. "He led me out of that room-He really did," she said of the 2-year-old Lahrador-golden re-

### Clinton gets a taste of encounters of the Israeli kind cheek - which in this case

Special to the Jordan Times BY ROBBING U.S. President Bill Clinton of the considerable achievement that emerged from his summit meeting with Svrian President Hafez Al Assad in Geneva, Israel made that meeting a richly, but painfully, educative experience for the American leader.

The peace talks between Israel and Syria had been deadlocked long before Damascus officially broke them off in September. The talks began with the principle "full peace" for "full withdrawal" from the occupied Golan Heights but they broke down with Syria asking for a timetable for the withdrawal which Israel said it would provide only after Syria defined

what it meant by "full peace". During the press conference after the talks President Clinton, on behalf of President Assad, said that he had obtained "a commitment" 🕻, for Syria. a "full peace" "normalisation included

the specific items that Israel

had been demanding - open borders, trade relations, tourism and an exchange of embassies. This was a breakthrough. No sooner had the statement

been made than Israel began rubbishing it. Israeli spokesmen began by saying that it was of little importance, even though Mr. Clinton had said several times that it was "very important." They then went on to claim that it contained nothing new despite Mr. Clinton saying that it was "the first time" that a peaceful relationship between Israel and Syria had been envisaged: that Israel wanted to hear the commitment from Mr. Assad himself: that Mr. Assad's words had to be tested in direct negotiations. The Israelis even went so far to say that the wily and experienced Assad. "the fox," had tricked the inexperienced

Syria first expressed surprise and then condemnation of the Israeli reaction saying that it was an attempt to buy time and to postpone withdrawal. Reports from Washington

spoke of U.S. "unger." because Mr. Clinton had persuaded Mr. Assad to make a public commitment on the details of the peace agreement on the understanding that the quid pro quo would be detail on Israeli withdrawal, which are not forthcoming. Thus the appearance has been given that Mr. Clinton either mislead Mr. Assad or was unaware of Israeli thinking, and that Mr. Assad has been tricked into giving away a lot without getting anything in return: "The fox" has been outfoxed.

Israel's reason for its intense reluctance, amounting to downright refusal, to hand over any part of the Holy Land is the Zionist belief that all of Palestine "belongs" to the Jewish people as promised to them by their god, Jehovah; even though the Golan" the Biblical Goshen, is not part of the promised land.

A strong country-wide campaign against withdrawal from the Golan is being waged by Golan settlers and right-wing opposition parties - a million

leaflets, stickers and posters have been distributed with the message "Israel is with Golan" - and this has pushed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin into stating that the issue would be settled by a referendum, the first ever for Israel. This would be a risky business because polls show that only six per cent of Israelis favour withdrawal as the price for peace because there definitely will be no peace without withdrawal. Mr. Clinton has badly

needed a foreign policy success after his bumbling in Somatia, Haiti and Bosnia, and he seemed to have achieved it in But Israel delivered a slap in the face, which ought to wake him up to the reality, enunciated years ago by King Hus-

choice of territory or peace. has chosen territory. But slapping the face of a very good and powerful friend like the U.S. president could be counterproductive unless that friend swallows his pride and anger and turns the other

sein, that Israel, faced with the

could happen. To strengthen their refusal to withdraw their troops from the Golan the Israelis have once again trotted out the yarn that Syrian troops there would. be "a threat to Israel's security" - the standard excuse for

Israel not doing any number of

things.
This is a yarn for two reasons: It may be doubted whether the Israelis themselves believe it, to judge by the way in which they turn on the story. for a few weeks or months, and then turn it off, when the story is no longer politically useful. Thus, about six months ago it was the received wisdom in Israel that Golan did not present such a threat, and Mr. Rabin was waxing sarcastic about the Israeli army having to fight to protect the settlers's cattle. He has never now de-

Also, even if the Syrian army does not teturn to the Golan, it could still lob shells

nied that he ever said that the

Golan was an integral part of

or rockets over the heads of the Israeli occupiers into the settlements and towns of Galilee that lie below the Heights because the Golan is only 32 kilometres wide. The Syrians did indulge in sporadic bombardment of these targets before the Israelis captured the Heights in 1967 and the long intervals of quiescence were imposed by Israel's deterrent power, which is even stronger

Israel seems incapable of secing that the "security", peace and quiet on its borders, which it wants, would be best secured through good, noninimical relations with its neighbours; Instead, Israel uses a self-defeating circular argument; In the name of security it invades and occupies its neighbours's territory; the continued occupation arouses hostile feelings in the neighbours: because those hostile feelings could present a threat to Israel's security Israel has to continue having its front line defence inside neighbouring

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